ADMINISTRATION REPORT
OF THE
POLITICAL AGENCY, HILL TIPPERAH
(1872 - 1878)

Vol-1

Edited by :- Dipak Chowdhury

TRIPURA STATE TRIBAL CULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
&
MUSEUM
GOVT. OF TRIPURA

ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE POLITICAL AGENCY, HILL TIPPERAH, 1872—1877-78

VOL—I

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FORWARD

Tribal Research Institute of the government of Tripura has been engaged in publication of rare books, historical documents, research papers and other such valuable documents/books.The reports of the political Agency of Tripura which was sent to the Bengal Government from 1872 onward contained let of valuable information about History, Culture, administrative setup and other details which are very useful in understanding and appretiating the cultural demography of this beautiful State, It was a long felt need for publication of these rare documents containing the confidential reports of the Political Agency.

2. I am happy that Shri Dipak Kumar Chaudhuri has taken pain to collect these rare documents, compile them and also analyse the reports of the Political Agency. The analysis of the report has been done meticulously by the author.

3. I am sure the present publication would be of great assistance and help to reserach scholars, student of History, Political Science and other related subjects.

Agartala,
January 4th. 1996

(D. K. Tyagi)
Commissioner, Tribal Welfare.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This is to acknowledge my gratitude to the staff of the National Archives of India, New Delhi, who helped me in collecting all the Reports published in this volume. I am particularly indebted to the authorities of the National Archives of India, who, in a letter, No. F. No. 11/93-R.R., dated 26 April 1994, gave me the permission to publish these Reports for academic pursuit. The relevant portion of the latter is given below :

... I am desired to inform you that this department has no objection to the material being published by you for academic purposes. However, you have to acknowledge the Department for this material in your book and a copy of the same may be sent to this department after its publication on complimentary basis as desired under the National Archives of India Historical Research Rules, 1982.

Dated 13th-June 1995

Dipak Kumar Chaudhuri

B

General Statement of Criminal Cases (original) for 1876-77

Description of offences	Number of offences reported during the year	Number of persons remaining under trial at commencement of the year	Number of persons brought to trial during the year	Total number of persons under trial	Acquites or discharged	Convinced	Died, escaped, transferred, & c.	Remaining under trial at the end of the year	Remarks
Serious offences									
1. Against person	46	15	112	127	62	35	1	29	In 138 of these cases
2. Ditto property	58	7	117	124	70	43	7	4	British subjects were
3. Against person	209	2	371	373	216	101	4	22	concerned either as
4. Ditto property	175	21	380	401	223	83	17	78	complainants or
5. Miscellaneous	72	1	117	118	44	57	4	13	defendants, or both.
Total	560	46	1,097	1,143	645	319	33	146	

Note– Including cases shown as pending in last year's return

C

Statement showing the Result of Appeals in regard to Criminal cases for the year 1876-77.

	No.
Cases remaining from last year	4
Instituted during the year	30
Total for disposal	34
Judgment of Lower Courts confirmed	10
Reversed	7
Rejected	2
Modified	11
Remanded	2
Total disposed of	32
Pending at close of the year	2

Remarks– In last year's return three cases were shown as pending at the close of the year; but it appears now, from the returns received from the Rajah's office, that four cases were actually pending.

D

Statement of Civil Suits (original) for the year 1876-77

	No.
Pending at commencement of the year	61
Instituted during the year	284
Total for disposal	315
Rejected or dismissed for default	87
Withdrawn with leave or compromissed	27
Decreed on confession or *ex parte*	102
Judgment for plaintiff in whole or part	52
Judgment for defendant	35
Total disposed of	303
Pending at close of the year	42

Remarks– In 78 of these cases British subjects were concerned either as plaintiff's or defendants, or both.

Tripura, thus, provided a possible opportunity to the Company to enlarge its Chittagong territories.

The Company fauj marched against the Raja of Tripura in February 1761, and occupied Comillah, the head quarters of the Raja in the plains. Krishna Manikya surrendered without a fight. The Company now made a fresh settlement with him regarding the revenue of the Chakla Roshnabad. But its expectations to enlarge its Chittagong territories did not materialize, as the Chakla was handed back to the Nawab, on the assurance that the cost of the expedition would be defrayed.[2] Interestingly, in this settlement with Krishna Manikya, there was no reference to the hill portion of Tripura, as the Company officials found that, the area was of little economic value, covered as it was with impenetrable jungles and marshes, and with very little cultivation. Consequently, the Raja remained independent in the hills as before.

The political complexion of Bengal soon took a new turn in 1765 when the Company secured the dewani rights over Bengal. Since then, the Company legimately began to collect revenue from the Chakla Roshnabad, which was later permanently settled in 1793, along with other zemindaries of Bengal.

The Company, however, never interfered in the affairs of the Independent Tripura, even though it had assumed the direct administration of Bengal as early as 1772. Notwithstanding, following the nawabi tradition, it began to grant sunnad, from 1785 onwards, to every new Raja of Tripura, and thereby accord its recognition. But once thus recognised, the Raja remained truely independent in the hill territory. The Raja of Tripura, to quote Mackenzie :[3]

Who is an ordinary zemindar on the plains, reigns as an independent prince over 3000 square miles of up-land, and was for many years a more absolute monarch than Scindia or Puttiala, owing no law but his sovereign will, bound by no treaty, subject to no control, safe in his obscurity from criticism and reform.

Indeed, the Company Government so scrupulously maintained its policy of non-interference to Tripura that even when some over-zealous bureaucrats tried to end this independence, the former itself came to the rescue of the Tripura Raj. Early in the 19th century, the Lieutenant-Governor himself declared in unequivocal terms that the Rajas of Tripura had an independent territory in the hills.[4]

III

All this, however, changed in the period after the Transfer of Power. In 1865, the British Government took a decision to change the name of the state from ''Independent Tipperah'' to ''Hill Tipperah''; and in 1870, it was decided that a Political Agent would be stationed there. This was a complete reversal of the policy which the Company had pursued for nearly a century, and Tripura suddenly came face to face to a situation where her independence was being threatened. Now, why was this reversal of policy?

The decision to station of Political Agent in Tripura was, in fact, prompted by two major factors : one ideological, and the other, political.

With the end of the Company rule in 1858, the British Crown stood out as the Company rule in 1858, the British Crown stood out as the Paramount Power of India, the successor of the Mughals. The Princely States of India, which, during the Company rule, had been the retically ''foreign states'', now came to be regarded as ''feudatories'', or vassal states. Though the Princes were assured, by the Proclamation of the Queen, of their dynastic and other privileges, it was made clear that Indian under 'direct rule' and India under 'Princely rule', would constitute, in effect, one single politico-economic unit; and that, it would be the duty of the Paramount Power to set right abuses in the Princely States. This was a departure from the policy of the Company which had virtually left the states alone so long as they remained loyal, and refused to interfere in their internal administration, except in cases of extreme misgovernment. But now, as a general rule, the British Government took upon itself the responsibility of maintaining 'good government' in the States. There was, however, a strong conviction that the only 'good government' was the British Government, and the only way to promote 'good

since he undertook it there has been an increase to the revenue of the state of over Rs. 55,000. The Dewan is hopeful of shewing a further increase next year. There is something to remark on some of the heads of revenue sources. Most of the land revenue in the plains (i.e. in the border strip of level land within the hill state's boundaries) is paid by farmers whose leases are from one to seven years. Much is, however, collected under direct management, and the resumption of leases as they expire is in favour. Leases of land covered with jungle are also given for a term that varies from one to seven years, according to the denseness of the jungle to be cleared. The decrease under the head of land revenue in the plains, as compared with that shewn for 1874-75, is owing to the remissions the Rajah made on account of the damage sustained by the crops through the inundations during the last rains. The income on account of forest produce shows a considerable improvement over that of last year, and this is owing to the measures that have been taken to prevent the systematic removal of forest produce without the payment of toll. This matter was dwelt on at length in the last paragraph. There is a decrease of some Rs. 2,500 in the Rajah's share of the tolls levied on the forest produce that is exported by the Fenny river. It will be remembered that under present arrangements the Rajah's share is ten annas, and that of the British Government six annas, in these collections. The reason of the decrease does not appear. Thirty-four thousand one hundred and sixty-two maunds of cotton are said to have been exported during the year, and a large quantity is said to have remained undisposed of in the hills. There is a very large increase under the head of elephants, the captures having been numerous : 134 elephants were caught during the last season, of which four died before they could be disposed of. The estimated value of the remaining 130 was Rs. 1,04,921, of which the Rajah's share was Rs. 37,451. Negociations to procure for our Government the right of working kheddahs in Hill Tipperah have broken down for the present, as the correspondence on the subject will show. There is alarge increase on account of the impost on the grazing of buffaloes, the reason of which is explained in paragraph 6. There are three districts in the state where a tax is levied at certain places on the mooring of boats and rafts. In two the tax is farmed out, and in the remaining one collected direct from the payees. Of these ''khutgari mehals'' one was created during the year 1875-76 in the Udaypore subdivision, and to it is principally to be attributed the increase of revenue under this head. The duties levied on the exportation of cotton, til (*Sesamum indicum*), gurjon-oil (exudation of the *Dipterocarpus turbinatus*), sharshu (mustard-seed), and parrots, are farmed out; so likewise are the duties imposed on the sale of spinning wheels (charki) and a peculiar kind of confectionery used by women (chonashikar). There are places where the *Bixu orellana* is found, and the right to use this product, from which arnotto dye (bilati haldi) is manufactured, has to be paid for. This department of revenue, as well as the two last in the list, were created during the year. Their proceeds are as yet insignificant. The grass mehal is the rent paid for certain lands in which thatching grass is heaped previous to removal, and the ''jalkar mehal'' is the rent of certain fisheries. Under the head of markets there is a slight decrease, with which the inundations above referred to may have had something to do. There are nineteen markets and four periodical fairs held in the state. Five markets, viz. at Udaypore, Bishalgarh, Devi Bazar, Farnah Dharm Nagar, and Kamalpore, are held in the interior of the hill country. The increase of civil and criminal cases explained further on accounts for the improvement of the revenue under the heads law and justice, court fees, and process fees. The income derived from the chowkidari tax (adda-mehal) was, by an oversight, not shown last year. There has been an increase under the head of excise. The system under which spirits are manufactured and sold was described in the last report, and no changes have since been made. An attempt to manufacture ganja has failed. Opium is manufactured to a small extent from poppies grown within the state; the cultivators are paid at the rate of Rs. 10 to 16 a seer for it. In 1873-74 five seers and three and a half tolahs were manufactured, in 1874-75 one seer and fourteen chittacks, and in 1875-76 three seers. The drug is used principally to deal out to certain classes of beggars who are nearly always to be found about the rajbari. The hill people are, as a rule, exempted from payment of duty on spirits manufactured for home use. There is

necessary not only to control the Raja's relations with the Lushai-Kukis, but also to open up the State (of which nothing was known) for initiating reforms[5]. The decision of the Government of India was communicated to the Bengal Government in June 1870.

Birchandra Manikya, the ruling Prince of Tripura, was naturally opposed to the move, and, between April and August 1870, he sent as many as three remonstrations to the Government of India expressing his apprehension that it would undermine his authority and end the independence of the Raj[6]. The Government of India, however, assured him that it had no desire to interfere with his administration, or with the lawful exercise of power which the Raja had enjoyed so far; and that the Political Agent would only "aid and advise" him in matters of administration. The Raja was also assured that the entire cost of the Agency would be borne by the British Government, though it was not the usual practice[7].

IV

A. W. B. Power was appointed as the first Political Agent of Tripura of July 3, 1871. He was of the rank of a fourth grade Deputy Commissioner, on Rs. 1000 per month. He arrived at Agartala on August 1, and with his assumption of the office began the period of the Political Agency in Tripura.

The agency consisted, apart from the Agent himself, of an English clerk on Rs. 70 a month, an orderly and one duftry chaprasee, each on Rs. 6. The Raja provided the Agent with an escort of 20 sepoys, and rendered all the assistance for the construction of a residence for the Agent, for which the Bengal Government had sanctioned Rs. 3000. A house was also built for the clerk. The Agency was initially placed under the supervision of the Commissioner of Dacca, but later, on November 1, 1880, it was transferred to that of the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division.

The duties assigned to the Political Agent were broadly of two categories[8]: one relating to the Raja's relations with the frontier tribes, and the other, regarding the Raja's internal administration. The Agent was instructed to travel about the frontier with a view to open friendly communications with the various tribes ; he was also to control the Raja's relations with them, particularly the Lushai-Kukis, so that the Raja could not undertake any punitive action against them without the prior approval of the Bengal Government. The Agent was also entrusted with the task of laying the frontier of the State in the east. With regard to the internal administration, the Agent was asked, without directly interfering, to acquaint himself with, and report on, every aspect of the Raja's administration,-civil, criminal, judicial, revenue, military and the police. He was also to counsel the Raja to initiate reforms where necessary, and to bring to the notice of the Government any gross injustice, outrages and barbarity.

V

The period of the political Agency in Tripura can be divided into two phases. The first phase lasted from August 1871 to October 1878 ; and the second phase from November 1878 to April 1890. During the first phase, altogether five European Agents had run the Agency. Their names and tenures are as follows :-

Name of the Political Agent	From	TO
1. A.W.B. Power	1 August 1871	2 February 1874
2. Capt. E.G.Lillingston	16 February 1874	26 April 1875
3. Capt. W.L. Samuells	26 April 1875	26 February 1876
4. T.E.Coxhead	26 February 1876	26 April 1877
5. C.W.Bolton	26 April 1877	28 October 1878

(During the tenure of Coxhead, however, J. F. Bradbury had been in charge of the Agency for a brief period of three months,-from February to April, 1877).

The post of a separate Political Agent for Tripura was abolished by a notification, published on July 20, 1878. In its place, the post of an Assistant Political Agent, of the rank of a fourth grade Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on Rs. 500 a month, was created. The Magistrate of the British district of Tipperah was made the Ex-officio Political Agent of Tripura, with instructions that he should visit Agartala twice a year, and stay there for a fortnight each time. The Government of India was in favour of an European Deputy Magistrate for the post of the Assistant Political Agent. But the Bengal Government proposed an Indian Deputy Magistrate for the post, on the ground that there was a severe shortage of European officers of the rank. Accordingly, an Indian Deputy Magistrate of the Bengal Civil Service, Uma Kanta Das, was selected for the post.

U.K. Das took charge from C.W.Bolton on 28 October, 1878, and with him began the second phase of the Political Agency in Tripura. Das remained in office all through the second phase, i.e., he was the first as well as the last Assistant Political Agent of Tripura. There were, however, nine Ex-officio Political Agents during the same period. They were :-

Names of the Ex-officio	From	To
Political Agents		
1. F. Jones	1878-79	1879-80
2. G. Toynbee	1880-81	1881-82
3. J. A. Hopkins	1882	1883
4. H. G. Cooke	1883	1884
5. F. H. B. Skrine	1884	1885
6. S. S. Jones	1885	1886
7. J. C. Price	1886	1888
8. A. H. Collins	1888	1889
9. R. T .Greer	1889	1890

The second phase of the Agency in Tripura came to an end on April 15, 1890, when the Bengal Government transferred the service of Das to the Maharaja of Tripura, who made him the Minister. The post of the Assistant Political Agent was, for the time, kept in abeyance, the entire political charge of Tripura being vested in the Ex-officio Political Agent. The Agency in Tripura was later abolished.

VI

During the first phase of the Agency, that is, between 1871 and 1878, nearly all the major tasks assigned to the Agents were completed. During this period, Birchandra cooperated with the Agents, and to some extent, became a willing tool to reform. One reason for this willingness and cooperation was his apprehension that unless he cooperated, his territories might be annexed.[9] The other reason was related to the controversy that arose over his proper title. Ever since he was recognised by the British Government as the de jure Raja of Tripura in 1869,10 Birchandra began to call himself the Maharaja. But the Bengal Government bluntly told him that his proper title was the Raja, and not the Maharaja, and that the higher title of the Maharaja might be bestowed on him at a future date, after assessing his performance as a ruler. This admonition, couple with his anxiety regarding the annexation of his territory, if he failed as a ruler, prompted Birchandra to act according to the counsel of the Political Agents.

As a result, this phase witnessed a host of activities. The eastern boundary of the state was fixed (though Birchandra was not happy with it), and a chain of frontier posts were erected, both to monitor the movements of the Lushai-Kukis and to protect the State from their raids. In internal administration, a series of reforms, cast on the model of British administration, were initiated. Thus, for the first time a Municipality was established at Agartala (1871); elementary education for both boys and girls began (since 1872); written laws were

introduced (1873-74); arrangements for public health were made with the opening of a hospital (873) at Agartala; a number of petty taxes were abolished; and finally, the Domestic Slavery was prohibited (1878).

All the Reports of the Political Agents during this early phase acclaimed Birchandra as a great reformer, and the British Government, in recognition of his efforts, to introduce reforms and good government, bestowed on him the title of the Maharaja, in October 1878, as a personal distinction.

This was, however, the turning point in Birchandra's relations with the Political Agency, which gradually grew worse during the second phase of 1878-1890. Despite the cordial relations during the first phase, a conflict was in the process of developing between Birchandra and the Agents over the financial administration of the State. The revenue of the State, when Power came, was only a paltry sum of Rs. 1,45,000. The zemindaries yielded nearly Rs. 6,00,000. But Birchandra's expenditure was much larger. It was estimated by the Agency that the annual deficit of the State was more than a lakh of rupees. The deficit was customarily met by borrowing money from money-lenders. The result was a perputual indebtedness of the Maharaja. Though the actual amount of the debt was always kept secret, it was believed that the total amount was more than five lakhs in 1877-78, and over eleven lakhs in 1883-84; to this was added a huge amount of interest, which was paid every year.

As the reform programme and good government ultimately depended on the availability of funds, the Agents, from the very beginning, had been insisting on certain changes in the administration of finance, or at any rate, on two specific things : one was to increase the income of the State by changing the prevailing revenue system, and by opening up new sources of revenue; the other was effect economy in administration, by way of reduction of the number of employees, and curtailment of expenditure, particularly, the personal expenditure of the Maharaja. Time and again, the Agents advised Birchandra about the necessity of a proper budget for financial administration of the State. But all the counselling went in vain.

The chief characteristic of the revenue system of the State was farming. All the sources of revenue, including the petty ones, were farmed out. The farmers were in most cases, the nobility of Tripura, known as 'Thakurs', who were related to the Maharaja, in some way or other. They were granted farms on very low terms. These people usually sub-let their farms to the Bengalis of the neighbouring British districts. Consequently, not only a good portion of revenue was lost to the treasury, but a substantial portion was also drained out of the State. The Agents had repeatedly advised Birchandra to do away with the farming system and replace it with direct (khas) management. But on some pretext or other, the latter, despite his loss of revenue, refused to change the system._The Agents also found Birchandra indifferent to opening up of new sources of revenue. The Agents in general, and C.W.Bolton in particular, had pointed out the immense potential of tea plantation in the Kailasahar region, where indigenous tea-bushes were found in abundance. But no initiative was ever taken in that direction during Birchandra's rule.

Birchandra was found to be equally indifferent to the question of reducing expenditure. His administration, according to the agency Reports, was unnecessarily large, and though the pay of the officials were only nominal, they always remained in arrears. With a view to reducing the unnecessary expenditure, the Agents had always recommended a reduction in the number of officials. But Birchandra paid no heed to the advice.

Birchandra was particularly against any scrutiny of his private expenditure by foreign Agents. All the Agents reported that in spite of the financial stringency, the Maharaja had been wasting money on his very large entourage, including poets, musicians, painters, wrestlers, hakims and kabirajas, and on other amusements.

What was more alarming was the fact that there was no proper account of any expenditure. It was to remedy this situation that the Agents had been insisting on preparing a budget, where both the income and expenditure, including the personal expenditure of the Maharaja, would be shown. To Birchandra, this demand of the Agents was an affront on his dignity. As a result, no budget was ever prepared, though Hunter had told us

otherwise.[11] The Agency, however, was supplied with yearly statements of revenue received from all sources.

The cumulative efforts of all this were the volumes of complaints against Birchandra, which we find during the second phase of the Agency. With the passing of every year, the complaints became louder and louder. Birchandra was accused of dissipating public money and of obstructing reforms, particularly, in his revenue administration. True, one major social reform took place during this phase,—the prohibition of Sati in Tripura in 1889—and the Maharaja was duly congratulated on that count. But the growing complaints against his revenue administration and his personal expenditure soon made the Bengal Government convinced that some sort of direct interference was the only way out to save the State from financial ruin. J. C. Price, the Ex-officio Political Agent, in his Report for the year 1887-88, even went to the extent of saying that Birchandra was a puppet in the hands of his officials, and as such, he should be removed from the throne.

Birchandra was quite aware of the hostile atmosphere around him, though he did not know the contents of the Agency-Reports, which were strictly confidential. In a bid to show that his financial condition was not as critical as depicted, he finally submitted, showing in a lump, a rough estimate of the probable receipts and expenditures for the year 1888-89. This rough estimate, the first ever submitted by Birchandra to the British, disclosed that his personal expenditure was far greater than the expenditure of the State. This only made the matter worse for Birchandra. D. R. Lyall, the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division, wrote :[12]

"It has long been known that it was the Maharaja's personal expenditure that was bringing ruin on his State, but until now all figures commented with expenditure had been jealously withheld. Things are going from bad to worse, and it is, I hold, the duty of the Government to interfere.

The Government, in any case, was still hesitant to directly interfere in Tripura. The cooperation of the Maharaja was necessary in order to execute the programme of reform. Hence, it was decided that the Ex-officio Political Agent, R. T. Greer, would be send to Agartala, with a personal letter from the Lieutenant-Governor, to persuade the Maharaja to act as per recommendations of the Agency. Accordingly, Greer came to Agartala in August 1889, and presented the letter to Birchandra, and after appraising him of the situation, made him agree to appoint a Minister, in consultation with the Agent. The Maharaja agreed to give the Minister full authority both over the State and the zemindaries, and not to remove him without the knowledge of the Agent. But immediately after the departure of Greer from Agartala, Birchandra denounced the whole agreement. In a letter to the Lieutenant-Governor, he complained that Greer had virtually compelled him to agree to a proposal, which would, in effect, end his independence. A lengthy and somewhat unpleasant correspondence then followed, and finally Birchandra withdrew his complaints, and accepted the proposal of Greer.

Towards the close of 1889, Birchandra informed the Bengal Government that he was willing to appoint the Assistant Political Agent, Uma Kanta Das, as his Minister, if the Government had no objection. The latter readily agreed, as Das was not only a trusted officer but well acquainted with the problem of State also. On April 15, 1890, Das was relieved of the duties of the Assistant Political Agent, and he joined the Maharajas service as the Minister. There was no need to continue the Agency in Tripura, as one of the trusted and experienced officers of the Bengal Government was now in full charge of the affairs of Tripura. Accordingly, the Agency was withdrawn after a period of 19 years.

VII

The Reports, as a whole, provide us with a fairly comprehensive picture of political, social and economic condition of Tripura in the late 19th century. Each Report contains, as we shall see, three major components :— one, the account of the compulsory tour of the Agent in the interior of the State, which lasted, on an average, about 70 days a year; two, important events of the year, including reforms introduced; and three, observations of the Agents on different aspects of the administration and recommendations for further improvement. Interpolating these were informations about people, living both in the plains and on the hills, and their socio-economic conditions. From 1877-78 onwards, we find, in addition, vital informations on weather and corps,

prices of food grains, wages, trade and commerce, and manufacture and mines. Particular attention was given on the administration of revenue, justice, army and police, education and public health, which were often supplement by statistical tables.

It is interesting to note that out of the eighteen annual Reports sent by the Agency, between 1871 and 1890, only six (those of 1872, 1873-74, 1874-75, 1875-76, 1876-77 and 1877-78) were prepared by different Political Agents themselves. All the rest were the works of a single person, the Assistant Political Agent, Uma Kanta Das, who remained in the same post for nearly twele years. These were, of course, occasionally supplemented with comments from the Ex-officio Political Agents.

Since all the Reports have been produced in the present volume in original, including the original page numbers (along with the general page numbers), below is a brief resume, covering only some important features, of each individual Report, for the readers convenience.

The Report for the year 1872

Prepared by : A.W.B.Power, the Political Agent.
Submitted on : October 31, 1873.

This was the first Report of the Political Agency in Tripura. Being the first Report, it was virtually a description of the State—mode of the government, nature of administration, condition of the military and police, economy, population, and education. Powers description was not always accurate, but nevertheless, very important, because, for the first time, the State and its people received attention from the outside world. Power, for example, put the total area of the State at 3,870 square miles, which was not correct. Similarly, he estimated that the total population of Tripura was about 35,000 only, which was again not correct. But apart from these two gross inaccuracies, Powers description seems to be a fair assessment.

Power described the mode of government in Tripura as despotic and patriarchal, where written laws were not known, and as such, the Rajas word was law. For almost everything, e.g., ''for building a pucca house, for digging a tank, for the use of palkee at a wedding,'' and the like, the Rajas permission was required. Power attributed interference in such matters to two causes,—''one being that the concession of such privileges is a source of revenue; and secondly, the power of reservation keeps up the Chiefs actual authority.'' There was, however, no complaint against such practices.

The nature of administration was like a family arrangement. Most of the officials were related to the Raja, either by marriage, or in some other ways. Some of the most dignified posts were herediatory. The pay of the officials were mere nominal, and this, according to Power, compelled then to take resort to dishonest means. There was no control over them and everybody was interested in concealing the shortcomings of his colleague. In such a situation, any attempt to introduce ''a reform which touches the pockets of these, brings down a storm of in-door influence,'' with which it was very difficult to cope with.

On the advice of the Agent, however, for the first time, two officers from outside were appointed in higher posts. One of them was Nilmani Das, formerly Sub-Registrar of Comillah, who was given the post of Dewan, and the other Durga Prasad Gupta, formerly Civil Court Ameen of Brahmanbaria, who was given the charge of the Kailasahar sub-division. The service of the Medical Officer of Comillah, Dr. Stork, was also transferred to the Raja (Both Nilmani Das and Dr. Stork came to Agartala only in 1873).

The judiciary, Power informed in a separate note[13] (and as such, not mentioned in this Report), was a feeble imitation of the British system. There were two Courts of Original Jurisdiction,—one, Civil, and the other, Criminal. On the top of them was one Appeallate Court. A final appeal was allowed to the Raja in important matters. All the Courts were presided over by the members of the Raj family, or by the Thakurs. There were no Civil or Criminal Code; the Courts were supposed to decide cases according to ''equity and good conscience. In the hills rough and ready justice'' was administered by the headmen or elders of the village.

The Rajas army was most ill-organised. It consisted of about 250 men. Four Court-favourites were in command : two with the designation of Captain, and two with that of Subadar. They knew little or nothing of drill and had no experience of active service. Each had the power to recruit anybody he liked. The pay of a sepoy was only Rs. 4 a month, and as it was not possible for a sepoy to live on his pay, he was allowed to return to his field for cultivation after a short course of slovenly drill. None of the sepoys was fit for any active duty. There was, however, a company (bradurie) of Gorkhas, who were the only men fit for action. Their pay was Rs. 6 a month, with battas when on active service. But the Gorkhas, observed Power, were fast leaving the Rajas service for two reasons : one, they found that only the favourites of the Raja, or who had influence in the Durbar, got promoted; and secondly, they were attracted by the higher pay given to the Arakan police force.

The Raja's police consisted of about 200 men. There were four Darogahs, 37 jemadars and other officers, and 173 burkandazes. The number of thanas were eight. The force, according to Power, lacked inducement, as "There was no pressing for conviction, and no blame is attached to an investigating officer for failing to obtain sufficient evidence when such was not ready to hand." In any case, no charges of torture to extort confessions were made against them.

The jail at Agartala was a mere shanty, with a mat tattee round it. There was no discipline; and sometimes the prisoners were allowed to go home for a few days, on a simple promise of return.

The revenue of the State was about Rs. 1,45,000, of which Rs. 24.849-2-6 was derived from ghats (toll stations for forest produce), Rs. 45,662 from the duty on cotton exportation, and the greater part of the remainder from a Family Tax on hill people. The method of the collection of Family Tax, the rate of which varied from tribe to tribe, gave every opportunity for exactions even to the lowest official concerned. Thus, Power observed

> Not only does the collector exact his douceur, and have himself and his followers conveyed free of expense from village to village, but the whole party have to be fed, and a percentage is levied by the peons (Binindias). I have been assured that fees paid under one pretext or another amount frequently to 50 per cent. Over and above the amount of the tax as originally settled.

Power divided the population of the State into two broad categories,—the inhabitants of the plains, consisting of the Bengalis and Manipuris, and the people of the hills. The latter consisted of six major tribes : Rajbansi Tipperahs, Jamatiyas, Noatiyas, Riangs, Hallams, and Kukis . The total number of population was about 35,000, of whom the hill tribes numbered about 20,000, and the people of the plains 14,5000. All the hill tribes lived in the same manner, and were joom cultivators. The Tipperahs, however, observed Power, were gradually being assimilated to the inhabitants of the plains, especially by adopting a modified caste-system. In general, the hill people were "very simple, truthful, and honest till corrupted by the evil influence arising from closer intercourses with the inhabitants of the plains."

The people were virtually without any education. While the hill people were totally illiterate, the people of the plains were only marginally better. There were only two schools in the Rajas territory, one at Agartala, known as the Anglo-Vernacular School, or the Maharajas School, and the other at Kailasahar, which was opened only in 1872.

Agartala itself was only a village. There were no roads, and it was cut off from the outside world for want of roads. A Municipality was instituted at Agartala, in 1871, under the chairmanship of Political Agent. The Raja sanctioned a grant of Rs. 3,100 in 1872.

The Report for the year 1873-74

Prepared by : Capt. E.G.Lillingston, the Political Agent.
Submitted on : July 15, 1874.
Powers account of his travel into the interior of Tripura (Pars. 8-9, sub-Pars. 1-9).
This second Report of the Agency is full of important informations. First the eastern boundary of the State was fixed. In the words of Capt. Lillingston :

"The Lungai River between the Haichik and Jampoi ranges to its source in the Betlieng-Sile Peak, then across to the Dolajuree Peak, and then by the recognised southern boundary to the Fenny River, has been fixed upon as the boundary."

(The Raja was, however, was not happy with this unilateral fixation of the boundary).

Secondly, a series of reforms took place in matters of justice. The following enactments were passed in 1873-74 :

	No. I	Criminal Procedure Code.
	II	Police Code.
	of 1283 T.E.	
(1873 A.D.)	III	Abkari Act.
	IV	Cattle Trespass Act.
	V	Regulating the manner in which drafts of Acts, & c., are to be made.
	No. I	Limitation Act.
	II	Civil Procedure Code.
	III	An Act regulating the manner in which decisions, & c., are to be written.
	IV	Municipal Act.

These were the first written laws of the State. A Penal Code was also under consideration, and though these might not, in the words of Capt. Lillingston, be brilliant specimen of legislation, but they have the advantage of simplicity, and can be easily understood by those concerned.

Thirdly, a hospital was opened at Agartala, in May 1873. It was entirely supported by the Raja, while Dr. Stork gave his services free.

Fourthly, the activities of the Agartala Municipality began, and for purposes of municipal administration, the Agartala town was divided into eight wards, and a chowkidar appointed to each.

Finally, Capt. Lillingston gave a fairly good account of the past history of Tripura. Interestingly, he never had a glimpse of the Rajmala, the Court-history of Tripura, which, in his words, was a sealed volume, nor did he read the Rev. James Longs version of the Rajmala, though it was published by that time. He collected materials from other sources, notably, the 4th volume of Rohasya Sundarleha, No. 46.

Capt. Lillingston also informs us that a budget system has lately been introduced. This was, however, not correct as the later Reports would show.

The Report for the year 1874-75

Prepared by : Capt. W.L. Samuells, the Political Agent.
Submitted on : July 9, 1875.

This Report was actually prepared by Capt. Lillingston, before his departure from Agartala. Capt. Samuells merely added a statistical supplement to it.

In this Report, for the first time, we find a veiled criticism of Birchandra. On the one hand, Capt.. Lillingston admitted of a perfect understanding between the Raja and the agent, while, on the other hand, he remarked :

"I found it very difficult to get him to take real active interest in the affairs of his State; he is very apathetic and averse to any change. ... He hardly ever leaves his palace, and spends most of the time in photography, oil-painting, & c., taking up this and that as an amusement for a time, and then throwing it aside as a child does a toy he has tired of ...."

The Report also criticised the way in which the eldest son of the raja, the young Jubaraj, was being brought up. Like his father, the Jubaraj, Radhakishore, also hardly left the palace. He was never out of Agartala and as a result, the Agent apprehended, his outlook about the outer world must be very limited. Much cannot be expected, reported Capt. Lillingston, from such an heir to the crown of Hill tipperah.

The statistical supplements, added by Capt. Samuells, to the Report, provide us with vital informations on the population and revenue of the state. A special agency was set up to undertake the task of some sort of census. Though the project was not very successful, it was found out that the total number of population in the State

was 74,242, or in round numbers, 75,000 (and not 35,000, as estimated by Power), of which the number of hill people was about 41,892, and the people of the plains about 32,413.

The total revenue during the year, in round figures, was Rs. 1,86,932, which was an increase of Rs. 25,000, as compared to the revenue of 1873-74. The major sources of revenue were land revenue from the plains, Family tax from the hills, forest produce, cotton and til, and royalty on elephants.

The most important source of revenue was, however, the forest produce, which was managed, as in other cases, on the farming system. There were 28 farmers of forest produce, and maximum revenue paid by any man was Rs. 5,757, and the minimum Rs. 10-10.

The cotton and till were entirely grown on the hills by jooming, and were sold by the hill people to the exporters. The cotton mehal was farmed out to two persons. One of them paid to the State Rs. 46,350, and the other Rs. 830-10. The exporters had to pay the farmers of the mehal Rs. 1-2 to 1-14, according to the quality of cotton. The Agency collected the information that about 36,000 maunds of cotton and 12,000 maunds of til were exported during the year.

The ijaras for the purpose of elephant-catching (known as the Khedda) were given to four persons, who paid the State a share of the value of elephants captured. The shares varied from 2 annas to 7 annas.

There were, apart from the major sources of revenue, a number of petty taxes, such as, taxes on the export of parrots, of gurjun oil, and on the sale of spinning-wheel, etc. The revenue derived from these sources was very small, yet these, in the words of Capt. Samuells, are only worth mentioning by way of illustrating the extraordinary fertility of resources which the financier of a Native state possessed in matters taxation.

Report for the year 1875-76

Prepared by : T.E.Coxhead, the Political Agent.
Submitted on : June 26, 1876.

The Report provides further information on reforms. First, a Post Office was opened at Agartala, in October 1877. The Political Agent was made the ex-officio Post Master. It was entirely supported by the Raja, with a monthly grant of Rs. 60. It worked under the supervision of the Post Master-General of Bengal.

Second, there was an increase in the number of schools. During the year, two pathsalas (elementary schools) were established,—one at Agartala, and the other at Amlighata. The pathsala at Agartala was opened by the Jubaraj, within the premises of the Rajbari (palace), almost exclusively for the children of the Thakurs, and of the officials of the State. The Raja also increased his grant to the Agartala School, to Rs. 1,350, and to the Kailasahar School, to Rs. 180 a year.

Third, the judiciary underwent several changes. The number of Original Criminal Court was increased to four. Two other Courts were also established at the mufussil towns of Kailasahar and Udaypur. Usually, the Courts were presided over by the Thakurs, but the mufussil Courts were presided over by the respective sub-divisional officers.

Among other interesting informations we find that the Jubaraj Radhakishore Deb had established a Literary and Debating Society. The President of the Society was the Jubaraj himself, while members included his brothers, a few Thakurs, and other gentlemen. The Society met once a week, when original essays were read and discussed (It reminds us of a similar society established by the Derozians of Bengal early in the 19th century). The Jubaraj, moreover, had undertaken the compilation of a Tipperah vocabulary.

The revenue of the year was Rs. 2,13,470. There was, thus, an increase of Rs.23,000 over the last year. About 34,162 maunds of cotton were exported during the year, and even then a very large quantity was reported to have been remained undisposed of in the hills. Otherwise, there would have been a further increase in revenue.

There were 19 markets in the State, of which five were in the interior,—at Udaypur, Bisalgarh, Devi Bazar,

Farnah Dharmanagar, and Kamalpur. Four periodical fairs were also held in the State every year.

Coxhead also gave us some information about the nobility of the State. The nobles of Tripura were called Thakurs. They included not only the sons of the reigning Raja, but also those, whose descent from some former Rajas were admitted. They also included some others of reputed Kshatriya origin, who were held to be descendants of those who had accompanied the founder of the existing dynasty of Tripura. All the Thakurs were entitled to a small monthly grant from the Raja. Extra-grants were also provided on special occasions, such as, marriages etc. Coxhead, however, had a very low opinion about the Thakur community, whom he described as the dead-weight influence and obstacle to reform.

THE REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1876-77

Prepared by : C.W.Bolton, the Political Agent.
Submitted on : July 17, 1877.

The actual Report had been prepared by Coxhead before he left Agartala. Bolton made only some minor alterations, and added a statistical supplement.

In the main, the Report was a critique of Birchandra's administration, except in the field of education. The revenue of the year was less than the previous year ; it was only Rs. 1,82,632, against Rs. 2,13,473 of 1875-76. The decrease, according to the Report, who was partly due to the dismissal of the Dewan, Nilmani Das, who was a very competent officer, particularly in the collection of revenue. It was also reported that the Raja has not yet adopted the budget system, and that in spite of objections, the petty taxes on parrots, gurjun oil, spinning-wheel, sarshu (mustard-seed), chona-sikar, belatihaldi, etc. were not abolished. In the opinion of the Agent, these taxes were maintained solely for the advantage of farmers ... who, by nominal payments to the State, obtain privilages greatly to the inconvenience, of the people.

It was further reported that the Rajas army was paid in a most irregular manner, and that at the outlaying stations, men were five, six and eight months in arrear. The Agartala Muncipality had also turned out a complete failure; the meeting of the Municipal Committee was hardly held, roads were neglected, and expenditures uncontrolled.

The only progress was in education. The Raja ordered a new school to be established at Udaypur. A new school was also opened at the Manipuri settlement in Agartala. At the Christian village at Mariamnagar, the first ever girls pathsala was opened. A muktab for the instruction in Persian was also established at Agartala. It was, however, maintained at the expense of the Rajas family-tutor, Radha Raman Ghosh (a graduate of the Calcutta University), who had been entrusted with the supervision of the Education Department of the State.

THE REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1877-78

Prepared by : C. W. Bolton, the Political Agent.
Submitted on : July 29, 1878.

This was the last Report of the Political Agent (as there was no separate Political Agent henceforth). The main feature of the Report is a further indictment of Birchandra as a ruler, and an admission of the helplessness of the Political Agent (who was not given any power to directly interfere in the internal administration) when the Raja refused to follow his advice. The Report also deals, in some detail, with the condition of the people, and for the first time, with weather and corps.

The year, however, witnessed some important events. One was the bestowal on Birchandra of the title of Maharaja, as a personal distinction, in recognition of his loyalty and endeavour to improve the administration of the State. Though the title was conferred on October 24, 1877, the actual ceremony of investiture took place late in 1878.

The other important event was the end of the Domestic Slavery in Tripura, which was prevalent in the State from time immemorial. The Maharaja issued of Proclamation forbidding, under penalties, the sale, purchase,

receiving in pledge, or forcible detention of any human being as a slave.

There was also a further advance in primary education. At the close of the year, there were as many as 18 schools, with a student population of 430. The number of girls school now rose to 4, of which three were opened during the year. The number of girl-student was 53, of which all except 5 were Manipuries.

The revenue increased slightly ; it was Rs. 1,99,549, against Rs. 1,82,632 of the previous year. But there was hardly any effort, on the part of the administration, to increase the revenue, or open up new sources of income. It was reported that indigenous tea-bushes were discovered covering a wide area of the State on the northern, western and southern borders, and that the tea-planters of Sylhet were interested to develop the gardens in the State. But the Maharaja was not enthusiastic about European planters in the State, while he himself would not develop them.

Criticising the Maharajas attitude, Bolton reported :

"The maharaja appears never to have devoted as much attention to his affairs, whether in connection with the administration or with the management of his landed estate, as might have been expected from a man of his ability, education and physical vigour. Of late he has shown still less inclination than formerly to attend to business, and I fear that this feeling will grow upon him ... he appears to have given up his time mainly to amusements, much of which has involved expenditure which the State cannot afford."

All the suggestions of the Agents regarding reduction of expenditure in administration, which was unnecessary large, and the personal expenditure of the Maharaja, went in vain. The Maharajas debt, by that time, had already exceeded 5 lakhs of rupees.

An embittered Bolton reported that it was actually impossible for the Political Agent to improve the administration so long as the Agents interference would be restricted to advice, and that it is quite useless to press the Maharaja to adopt the budget system, in as much as he is not likely to control his expenditure according to the allotments of a budget.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. See E.H.Carr, what is History, Pelican, 1964, the Chapter on The Historian and His Facts.
2. This is known form the letter of Henry Vansittart, the Governor, dated 14 July 1761, to Harry Verelst, the Chief of the Chittagong Council, in which the former directed the latter to withdraw the Company fauj, and hand the Chakla over the Nawab ; Bangladesh District Records, Chittagong, Vol-I, 1760-1787, Dacca University, 1978, P. 69-70, Document No. 1.16.
3. A. Mackenzie, History of the Relations of the Government with the Hill Tribes of the North East Frontier of Bengal, (Reprinted), Delhi, 1981, P. 272
4. This is found in the letter of F. J. Halliday, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, No. 121, dated 27 December 1838, to the Commissioner of Chittagong, Par. 32, Foreign Poll A, Dec 1870, Nos. 362-374.

4.1. Letter of A. Eden, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, No. 6569, dated 17 December 1869, to the Secretary, Government of India ; Foreign Poll A, August 1870, Nos. 254-259.

5. Letter of A. Eden, No. 2513, dated 25 May 1870, to the Secretary, Government of India ; Foreign Poll A, February 1871, No. 264.
6. Two of Birchandra's remonstrations, i.e., of June 14 1870, and August 16 1870, are found in the National Archives of India, New Delhi ; Foreign Poll A, February 1871, No. 264.
7. Letter of C. U. Aitchison, Secretary to the Government of India, No. 1798 P, dated 3 October 1870, to Birchandra, the Raja of Hill Tipperah ; Foreign Poll A, December 1870, Nos. 362-376.
8. The duties of the Political Agent were clearly specified in the appointment letter of the First Political Agent of Tripura, A.W.B. Power ; the appointment letter was issued under the signature of A. C. Bayley, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Judicial Department, No. 3125, dated Fort William, the 3rd July 1871.
9. Immediately after his arrival at Agartala, Power, in a letter, No. 5, dated 5 August 1871, informed the Bengal Government that the Raja was extremely nervous that his territory might be annexed.
10. Birchandra occupied the throne, on the basis of an order of the late Raja, Isanchandra, in 1862 ; but his accession was challenged in the British Courts, and as such, the British Government, at that time, only recognised him as the de facto Raja. Ultimately, the Privy Council gave verdict in favour of Birchandra in 1869, and the Government also recognised him as the de jure Raja since then.

11. W. W. Hunter, A Statistical Account of Bengal, Vol-VI (Reprinted), Delhi, 1973, P. 462.
12. Letter of D. R. Lyall, the Commissioner of Chittagong, in connection with the Report of the Political Agency in Tripura for the year 1888-89, No. 822 HT-IX-17, dated 1 July 1889, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal.
13. Immediately after his assumption of office as the Political Agent, Power sent a note to the Bengal Government, on the judicial system of Tripura ; for this see the unpublished thesis of D. K. Chaudhuri, The Raj in Conflict and Conciliation (Tripura between 1871 and 1890), Rabindra Bharti University, Calcutta 1994.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE POLITICAL AGENCY, HILL TIPPERAH, FOR THE YEAR 1872

No. 149, dated Agurtollah, the 31st October 1873.
From-A. W. B. power, Esq, Political Agent, Hill Tipperah,
To-The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Political Department.

I have the honor herewith to submit the Annual Administration Report of the Political Agency, Hill Tipperah, for the year 1872.

GENERAL EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

2. The opening of the year found the Political Agent on the south-eastern frontier of the state with a contingent of the Rajah's sepoys, acting under orders of Brigadier-General Brownlow, C. B., commanding the right column of the Lushai Expeditionary Force. The contingent was required to protect the eastern frontier against a possible diversion by the syloos or other Lushai tribes while the expeditionary force was in their country. The measures to be taken were to patrol frequently, and, if possible, to open communications with the advanced police posts in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. A strong stockade was built at Eksuree on the Goomtee, and from there patrol parties were kept moving constantly along the frontier. An attempt to patrol three or four days' journey eastwards was frustrated by the desertion of the coolies *en masse*. The latter were Tipperahs who had suffered severely in the raid of the previous year; they were terribly afraid of the Lushais, and as they fully expected that there would be an engagement with them, it was but natural that they should desert, while the dense jungle all round gave them every opportunity of doing so. A party, however, with the Political Agent subsequently marched all along the south-eastern frontier, visiting all the posts from Ramghua to Jarimura, but the only signs of Lushais discovered were the foot-marks of a small party which had probably come to reconnoitre, and finding the country occupied returned. An excursion through the south of Hill Tipperah gave the Political Agent many opportunities of becoming acquainted with the hill tribes which inhabit those parts, and of inquiring on the spot into various questions which at the time were subjects of official correspondence; among these were the questions of tolls on forest produce coming down the river Fenny, and that of Government subjects inhabiting the Chittagong Hill Tracts, who had cut "jooms" in Hill Tipperah, and refused to pay anything to the Rajah for the privilege of doing so. The contingent returned to head-quarters at Agurtollah early in April.

3. The ensuing months up to the 18th August were spent chiefly at head-quarters; during July, however, at the request of the Commissioner of Chittagong, I accompanied him to Rangamattee in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and there consulted with him and Captain Lewin, the Deputy Commissioner, on frontier policy, and also exchanged opinions on the course to be pursued when defaulting subjects of Government abscond from the Chittagong Hill Tracts into Hill Tipperah, and *vice versa*, besides conferring on other questions that happened to be pending. While at head-quarters in anticipation of some expedition on the eastern frontier during the coming cold weather, I was at some pains to bring into a state of tolerable efficiency the very raw material that does duty in Hill Tipperah for a military force. I succeeded in effecting considerable improvements on the former state of things, but for reasons mentioned hereafter, under the head of "Military and Police," the military force of Hill Tipperah can never become really effective till and entirely new system is introduced.

4. During the latter part of August and throughout the month of September I was away on privilege leave. While on leave in Calcutta, I heard that a survey of the eastern boundary of Hill Tipperah and the neighbouring country had been determined on. At the request of the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, I wrote a memorandum on the possible means of supplying the survey party, and have since had the satisfaction of finding that the information I gave regarding places little known at the time was sufficiently accurate to admit of my suggestions being carried out almost to the letter.

5. Returning to head-quartors in October, preparations were made for the survey. These were considerably delayed by the absence of the Hill Tipperah officials during the Durga Pujah vacation, all business being

consequently suspended. Early in November, however, all was ready according to the plan originally settled, and on the 9th of November, I left Agurtollah for Koilashur, the base of operations on the north-eastern frontiers of Hill Tipperah. There, while engaged in preparing the way for the survey, I was informed that the plans had been changed at the last moment, and , with only two days' notice, the whole survey party came down upon me six weeks before they were expected. Under these circumstances, it is a matter of congratulation that there was no delay whatever in starting one party under. Mr. Chennell, while that under Captain Badgley was detained for a few days only. An account of the survey and its results is given subsquently. It is now merely necessary to remark, in order to conclude the general history of the year, that its close found the Political Agent still engaged in providing for and accompanying the party.

ACTION TAKEN BY RAJAH IN THE LUSHAI EXPEDITION AND EASTERN FRONTIER SURVEY.

6. These were the two most important events of the year as regards the Political Agency. As already remarked, the Rajah was called upon to supply a contingent for the protection of the frontier, while the expeditionary force was in the Lushai country; he had also to establish and garrison a chain of posts all along his frontier. Both these requisitions were carried out by the Rajah as far as his means allowed, but, as events turned out, perhaps the most important service rendered by him consisted in his sending a body of Kookee coolies to fill some of the vacancies caused by the mortality from cholera among Captain Hedayut Ali's corps. The Rajah advanced to the coolies a sum of Rs 1,054, and when offered reimbursement, declined any repayment in money, expressing himself already satisfied by the letter of thanks sent him by the Collector of Sylhet when the requistion made by the latter was complied with. It is much to be regretted that of these 106 in number, 35 died of cholera either during the expedition or immediately after their return home.

THE LUSHAI AND HILL TIPPERAH BOUNDARY SURVEY.

7. Though the survey was not completed till April 1873, it was going on towards the close of 1872, and some account of it may not be out of place here. It was undertaken with a two-fold object : first, that of ascertaining the eastern boundary of Hill Tipperah, and secondly, that of filling up as far as possible the gap left between the country surveyed the season before by the officers with the right and left column of the Lushai expeditionary force respectively. The opportunity was also taken of surveying part of the interior of Hill Tipperah, hitherto not only unsurveyed, but unexplored. The difficulties in the way of supplies an carriage were considerable, but were happily overcome. The Assistant Surveyor, Mr. Chennell, took the inner (western) line, and surveyed the country from Kamalpore on the north to the Great Trigonometrical Survey station, Surdaing on the south, where a depot had been prepared for him by the Rajah's officials—no slight task considering that the nearest food mart was at least seven days' journey from the depot. Mr. Chennell returned along part of Captain Badgley's route, and triangulated from and to the stations prepared by the latter. Captain Badgley, the Deputy Surveyor in charge of the party, explored the country south of Chutter-choora, along the Hachick and Jampai ranges, and then, accompanied by the Political Agent, made his way to Sirthay in the Chittagong Hills, where the Deputy Commissioner had prepared a depot. Leaving this place, a north-easterly route was taken through the Syloo country, then into Sookpilall's and so out into Cachar. This was the first occasion on which the route from Sylhet to the Chittagong Hill Tracts and back from the latter place to Cachar had been traversed; and, considering that our guard consisted of less then forty sepoys, and that while in the Lushai country we had no communications open with either Cachar or Chittagong, the risks attending on the march were not slight : we passed through, however, unmolested. The survey work done is thus described by Captain Badgley—"Captain Badgley cleared seven and observed at five stations, and completed 807 square miles of triangulation and 2,574 square miles of topography. Mr. Chennell left Koilashur on the 5th December for Kamalpore, where he was delayed about a week, engaging coolies and taking in supplies for his trip to the Lungtherai range, he cleared

and marked the peaks Batchia, Sun Batchia, and Feing Pai, reconnoitered the ridge southwards to its termination, and returned to Koilashur on the 28th. He left the following day for the Lakkan-klang range, selected and cleared two stations and marched westwards to Surdaing, cleared a station there and *en route* the intermediate points Koilasih and South Lungtharai at Surdaing. Mr. Chennell having got fresh supplies started for the Dulajuri range, on which he put up a mark and returned, observing to south Sylhet on the 1st April, and arrived at recess quarters, Shillong, on the 9th April. Mr. Chennell cleared ten and observed at thirteen stations, and completed about 2,117 square miles of triangulation and 1,513 square miles of topography.

"*Total area surveyed*—The triangulation amounts to 2,432 square miles exclusive of overlap, which is 492 square miles; and topography 3,587 square miles, exclusive of overlap, which is 500 square miles." The question as to what is to be the precise boundary of Hill Tipperah is still under consideration. The Rajah contributed in no slight degree to the carrying out of the expedition, all the carriage required to store the Surdaing godown was supplied by him, and a large portion of the coolies with Captain Badgley's and Mr. Chennell's parties also came from Hill Tipperah. The strain on the local resources was, in fact, very great, as there are now very few Kookees in the northern part of the State; some of them have joined the Lushais, but by far the larger portion of them have migrated over the border into Sylhet.

The causes of their leaving their former homes were raids on the one hand, and oppression by the hill officials on the other. It is sad to think that for many years these simple hill people were literally at the mercy of unscrupulous subordinates without the hope of, or knowledge how to obtain, redress for their wrongs. I am glad to be able to report that now there is a change for the better, since a thoroughly trustworthy official, Baboo Durga Prosad Gupta, whose services were transferred to the Rajah under Government Resolution No. 4359, dated the 14th October 1871, has been appointed Deputy Superintendent of Koilashur, the head-quarters of the north-eastern division of the State. A European gentleman was engaged by the Rajah to manage the surdaing depot, and the services of the Koilashur Deputy Superintendent were placed at my disposal. I reported at the conclusion of the survey how useful this officer had been, and how he had worked over five months in supplying the survey parties without receiving any extra remuneration whatever.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF HILL TIPPERAH.

8. From absence of materials I am unable this year to give an account of the past history of Hill Tipperah. The total area of the state is about 3,870 square miles; the hills commencing from the western boundary rise gradually from mere undulations to ranges of 2,000 feet and more on the eastern frontier. At an average distance of about 12 miles from each other run parallel ranges increasing in height towards the east; from north to south the valleys between are broken up by rough and irregular ridges of low hills; a line drawn from the north-west to the south-east corner roughly gives the watershed; the rivers north of this line flowing into Sylhet, and those south into Tipperah district and the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The hills are invariably covered with dense jungle, and wherever there is any level land in the valley between the ranges it generally is a swamp. All along the northern, western, and southern boundary is a strip of low land, differing in no material respect as regards soil, cultivation, and population, from those parts of the districts—Sylhet, Tipperah, and Chittagong—on which it abuts. No census has ever been taken of the State, but a rough estimate was made last year, and the following was the result in round numbers :—

(1)	Inhabitants of the plains (the strip along the border above mentioned) consisting of Bengalees (chiefly Mussulmans) and Munipurees	14,500
(2)	Hill tribes	20,000

Divided as follows : -

(a) Rajbangshi Tipperah.	10.000
(b) Jamaityas	2,200
(c) Nuwatyas	1,500
(d) Riang	3,300
(e) Hallams	1,000
(f) Kookees	2,000
Total	20,000
Grand Total	34,500

or say 35,000. I am endeavouring to obtain as accurate an estimate as possible for next year. The first four of these hill tribes are known by the general name of Tipperahs, each of these, except the Jamaityas, is divided into several classes differing but slightly from each other, all, however, speak the same language, and intermarriage is permitted, though of rare occurrence. The Kookees and Hallams, on the other hand, are a totally distinct race from the Tipperahs; as far as can be judged from their languages, in manners, customs, religion, and appearance, they resemble each other, but while the Kookee retains many peculiarities traceable perhaps to a Burmese origin, the Tipperah is gradually becoming assimilated to the inhabitants of the plains, especially by adopting a modified caste system. The Kookees are the same race as the Lushais, speaking the same language, and when at peace intermarrying freely. The Hallams are undoubted of Kookee origin; their language differs but slightly from that of the Kookees; they are, however a finer race with fair complexions, and in appearance, more cleanly than is usual with these hill tribes. I have sent in a vocabulary containing a list of words and phrases in Kookee, Hallamee, Tipperah, and Munipooree, which, in the hands of one skilled in ethnology, may throw some light on the origin of these people. All the hill tribes in the State live in the same manner; their houses are constructed on the same plan and of the same material, bamboos; they are raised from the ground on a bamboo platform. Their mode of cultivation is as follows: they cut down the jungle in December, January, and February and burn it in April; after the first fall of rain the "joom," as the clearance is called, is sown with paddy, cotton, and chilles the seeds of the three being dibbled in together into holes made with the point of a dao; pumpkins and other vegetables are also grown. With the exception of a few gayals belonging to the Rajahs (or Chiefs of Kookee communities) no large cattle are kept, pigs, goats, fowls and pigeons being the only live stock. They object to cultivation by the plough as being contrary to their traditions; but I know an instance of a hill-man, in easy circumstances, who took up some waste land in the plains near his village, and now cultivates it through Bengalee Mussulmans, whom he employs as servants. The people were very simple, truthful, and honest till corrupted by the evil influences arising from closer intercourse with the inhabitants of the plains, and also by bad government, whereby they were left at the mercy of grasping subordinates. Every advantage was taken of their ignorance and credulity, till at length they perceived this themselves, and now no longer hesitate to meet deceit with its own weapons. They are ali much given to drink, having the sanction of their religion for so doing, as spirits are indispensibly necessary for most of their ceremonies.

9. The Chief of the State is Rajah Beer Chunder Deb Burmon, who also bears the titles "Manikya" and "Bahadur", bestowed on his family in ancient times. The Rajahs of Hill Tipperah used to enjoy a greater share

of independence than the chiefs of most other Native States of the same description, owing, as was pointed out, when the Rajah objected to the appointment of a Political Agent, "to the insignificance of his territory and obscurity of his position." They claim a descent from the Lunar race of kings, and are supposed to have migrated eastwards about the same time that the kingdom of Kamroop was establised. They are Kshettryas by caste, but by intermarriage with Muniporces, Tipperahs, and other tribes, the purity of their descent has been lost. A peculiarity in the course of succession is observable in a custom which has been in force for several centuries, but the origin of which is lost in obscurity. It consists in this: A reigning Rajah has the power of nominating any male* member of the royal family within certain limits as his successor under the title of "Joobraj", and a successor to the "Joobraj" under the title of "Burra Thakur." On the Rajah's death the "Joobraj" becomes Rajah and the "Burra Thakur" becomes "Joobraj", who would in his turn become Rajah, even to the exclusion of the Rajah's natural heirs to those dignities when unappropriated; and when no appointments have been made, the eldest son succeeds (as a matter of course). Thus a "Joobraj" who becomes Rajah has no power to pass over the "Barra Thakur" appointed by his predecessor; that "Burra Thakur" becomes "Joobraj", and subsequently (if he lives) Rajah. The reigning Rajah, however, it will be observed, has the option of appointing a successor to *him*, whom *he*, in his turn, cannot set aside. Another peculiarity is that when the succession to the Raj is disputed, it is decided by our law courts, the reason being that the Rajahs have held, and still hold large zemindaries in our district of Tipperah, from which the greater part of their income is derived. The hills bring in about Rs. 1,50,000, while the zemindaries have a gross rental of over Rs. 6,00,000. The Rajahs pay a succession duty to Government of one-half of the income derived from the hills in case of direct, and the whole in that of collateral, successions.

Note—The question whether the appointment of an illegitimate member of the family is valid or otherwise has not been decided; there seems some probabilty of this question among others being raised by one of the sons of the late, and nephew of the present Rajah.

The form of Government is despotic and patriarchal; the Rajah's word is law, and it is sufficient to annul the decrees of the courts, whether the matter be brought up in final appeal or otherwise. His permission is required for numberless contigencies, *e.g.*, for building a pucka house, for digging a tank, for the use of palkees at a wedding, &c. &c. I attribute interference in such matters to two causes, one being that the concession of such privileges is a source of revenue, and secondly, the power of reservation keeps up the Chief's actual authority. I have not heard complaints against taxation of this kind, and though the practice must retard progress, it does not seem of itself to give rise to discontent. I shall point out afterwards how that and other institutions are open to abuse. Considered in its patriarchal form, the government of the State has the sole merit of being one to which the people have been accustomed ; even service in all departments seems to partake more of the nature of a family arrangement than of a business contract, and in this particular lies, I think, the great blot of the administration. The servant's pay is merely nominal. To live they must resort to questionable practices : dishonesty and peculation having the most valid of all excuses, must be winked at : oppression by officials is easily hushed up, all being interested in concealing the shortcomings of their fellew-servants. To raise the pay of the officials all round to a sufficient competence would be but half a remedy ; what is requested is thorough control over the subordinates, and the infliction of adequate punishment where such is merited. Here arises a question which, though it affords a complete explanation of the unsoundness of the system, and points to a remedy, I approach with some diffidence. Nearly all the hill officials, if not all, are closely connected with the Rajah himself, either by marriage, or in some other way. The subordinates of these, again, are generally connected in the same way each with his official superior. An attempt to introduce a reform which touches the pockets of these, brings down a storm of in-door influence which, I can well imagine, is difficult to resist, and with which it is almost impossible for a person completely outside to cope successfully. A mischievous custom too exists that some offices of dignity are hereditary, and the spectacle may sometimes be seen of a boy of twelve

with more real power for good or evil over his little department than a Commissioner has over his division. The result is that great abuses may flourish, to reform which time and opportunity are required. What is being done in this way will be mentioned subsequently.

10. Before proceeding to details of internal administration, I make a few remarks on the complications that arise from the fact that while in the Tipperah district the Rajah is merely a British subject, a few steps over the border convert him into a more or less independent ruler. There are three chief causes of disturbance on the boundary : first, all the bamboos, thatching grass, and canes, on which the people of the plains adjoining are dependent for domestic use, as well as timber and other articles of forest produce, come from Hill Tipperah ; before these necessaries are allowed to cross the border, a rough ad-valorem duty is charged on them, the collection of which is chiefly in the hands of lessees, the rates, however, being fixed. Each party now tries to cheat the other; the ryots attempt to evade payment of the tools altogether, while the lessees seek to obtain from them more money than is justly due according to the scale of rates in force. Again, the articles being indispensable necessaries, not easily procurable elsewhere, it is a powerful engine of coercion to prevent a refractory ryot form removing the forest produce he has collected till he has complied with whatever demands may be made upon him. Here there are fruitful sources of quarrels and bad blood. The next cause is similar to the foregoing, except that the ryots concerned are not generally the Rajah's but those of another zemindar. In the hills are large tracts of grass land, the right of pasturage over which is usuall leased out to individuals. During the rains there is not sufficient food for the number of cattle kept by the ryots of the neighbouring plains, they consequently drive them into the hills, but utterly decline to pay anything. A long course of feeble management on the part of the lessees has made them bold, and the story is still told how a band of these lawless men served a presumptuous lessee, one Raghu Nath Dass, who dared to assert his rights against them. It appears they seized him and hung him on a tree, leaving his corpse as a warning to others. This occurred many years ago. I have heard that the closest investigations failed to bring the murderers to justice. Now and then attempts are made to enforce payment, and affrays are generally the result. In 1871, however, a new lessee succeeded in capturing a large heard of cattle trespassing in the hills, and drove them off before a rescue could be effected. He was at once charged with theft of the cattle from the plains. The charge, though utterly false, was supported by the most carefully prepared evidence, every man of the village being ready to swear that the cattle had been plundered form Government territory. The lessee, after a long trial, was finally discharged, but he has been threatened with the fate of the man before mentioned, and has never dared to show his face near the spot since. The Rajah has been told that it is for him by a proper system of police to protect his legitimate interests, and no doubt a few examples would soon bring matters to a satisfactory footing ; but he still fears to assert his rights vigorously in the face of the almost absolute certainty that false cases will be brought against his people supported by the evidence of numerous practised witnesses, with the chance of retaliation by violence in the background. I have pointed out to him that hitherto no cause has been given him to distrust the action of our courts in such cases, and that as long as he merely insists on receiving his legitimate dues, he will not be to blame for the affrays which are likely to ensue. He still shrinks, however, from adopting a bold course of action, having some lurking apprehension that, however just may be his cause, riots and affrays may bring him into trouble with Government. A recent case affords an illustration of this. A man was seized pasturing cattle in the hills, tired on the charge of trespass, and sentenced to a month's imprisonment. He was released, however, before the expiry of his term on the occasion of the Rajahs eldest son's wedding.* His relations meantime petitioned the Magistrate of Tipperah that he had been carried off to Hill Tipperah, and "caused to disappear." I was away at the time, but on my return inquired into the case and found the above account to be substantially the correct one, as far as can be judged from the evidence and probabilities. The Rajbaree people were wringing their hands

Note—Along with all the other prisoners in the jail.

over the man's wickedness, and taking no steps whatever to trace him ; at last, at my suggestion, letters were sent to the tehsildars, and it was soon discovered where he was. Information was secretly given to the police, who found the man taking his case in a connexion's house, while his other relations were doing all they could to prove that the Rajah's people had either murdered or otherwise disposed of him. Nothing can set this matter right but a long course of determined action, and this is just what the system now prevalent is peculiarly deficient in. An occasional outburst of vigour leaves but a transitory impression, while not unfrequently the Rajah's people blunder into a false position even when right was originally on their side. The third case is the most important of all as affecting the interests of British subjects. Most of the zemindari in Government territory on the borders of Hill Tipperah belong to the Rajah, and there is one long strip adjoining the whole western and southern part of Hill Tipperah which is in his possession without a break. The Rajah has not sufficient able and trustworthy men available for the purpose of collecting the rents of this huge zemindary, if held khas. It has consequently been usual to let this as well as other parts of the property out in farm. During the present Rajah's time, as leases have fallen in, it has been usual to put them up to auction and knock them down to the highest bidder. In answer to the general objections to this course, it is stated that no proper measurements of the farms have ever been made, no papers showing the real rental exist, and that there was reason to believe that many of the farms had been formerly leased at a very low jumma. The leases when put up fetched enormous prices, some were knocked down at 50 per cent., some at 100 per cent., and others at a still higher rate above the former jumma. Men of straw, mere speculators, bid them up, while former lessees were often bound to take them at any price in order to have some chance of recovering the arrears due to them from the tenants. The evils of the system soon became apparent. The men of straw after an ineffectual attempt to make a profit by raising the rents of the ryots, soon collapsed, after damaging the property by irritating and impoverishing the ryots and wasting the time during which the proper rents might have been collected. Then, when the men of substance found that to save themselves from ruin, a general enhancement of rent was necessary, a deplorable state of things ensued : the tenants withheld all rent, even that legally due ; the lessees used every means to coerce them ; the ryots supply of bamboos and grass was stopped ; the lessees cutcherry was burnt down, and so on, injuries follwed by reprisals and general discontent. Whenever a justly recusant ryot ventured into the hills, he was pretty sure to be subjected to illegal demands for enhanced rent ; while on the other hand, any British subject caught in the act of committing an offence in Hill Tipperah, would bring forward a charge against his captors of having kidnapped him from the plains with a view to extort from him rent at an enhanced rate. All possible influence has been brought to bear on the Rajah to put an end to this state of things by removing the principal cause, and remedies have been partially applied, considerable reductions have been made in the jummas of lessees, and a promise has been given that as leases fall in the settlement will be made on a different system. In order to guard his own interests as zemindar, the Rajah has determined to have the estates measured, and the actual rental ascertained. Meanwhile, he has issued proclamations enjoining the lessees to keep strictly within the law, declaring that severe penalties will be enforced in case of disobedience; so matters stand for the present. It will thus be seen that with regard to the first cause of complication, the blame is divided between Government ryots and the Rajahs people; in the second cause the Rajah seems to have right on his side; while, as regards the third cause, he is wholly in the wrong. The last question has recently been the subject of correspondence with Government.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATE

11. The revenue is in round numbers Rs 1,45,000, of which Rs. 24,849-2-6 is derived from ghats (toll stations for foreign produce), Rs. 45,662 from the duty on cotton exported, and the greater part of the remainder from a family tax on the hillmen and from ghats held *khas*. The name by which the family tax is known is "*ghur chukti*", also "*mal*", affixed to the name of a tribe, as "*Riang mal*". The assessment is made by tribes, the

headmen settling it with the Rajah during the Doorgah Poojah festival. Each tribe is assessed at so much per family :—the Riangs and the Nuwaityas paying generally from Rs. 8 to Rs. 12 per annum for each family, the Rajbungshees and Jamaityas from Rs. 5 to Rs. 7, and the Hallams about the same. The Kookees just now are let off easily, as, without encouragement to stay, they would emigrate in a body to Sylhet or to the Lushai country. Each family pays the same no matter what number of members it may contain; the collection of the tax gives every opportunity for exactions even to the lowest official concerned. Not only does the collector exact his *douceur*, and have himself and his followers conveyed free of expense from village to village, but the whole party have to be fed, and a percentage is levied by the peons (*Binindias*). I have been assured that the fees paid under one pretence or another amount frequently to 50 per cent. Over and above the amount of the tax as originally settled; nor does the Rajah profit by these extra cesses, except in so far that he can thereby afford to under-pay his subordinates. Another abuse, which I trust is now dying out, consisted in this : when an order was issued to the inhabitants of any village to bring in some bird or beast as a plaything for some of the Rajah's children, the execution thereof was made a clock for levying a contribution all round, which went to the *binindias* and their superiors in shares. Notwithstanding all these irregularities, I am not disposed to think that the hillmen would prefer a system of light but unbending taxation to that now in force. Sometimes several seasons pass without any call being made on them for money payments. During the last two years hardly any tax has been collected—first, on account of Lushai raids, and secondly, on the ground that the men serving as coolies during the Lushai expedition and with the survey party could not cut their jooms, and had therefore no means of paying the tax (if indeed they succeed in feeding themselves and their families during the ensuing year, it will be as much as can be expected from them). I think they would prefer a heavy demand at irregular intervals to a steady pressure of taxation, but this is still an open question, as the experiment has never been made. It is true that they emigrate in considerable numbers from the State into Sylhet and the Chittagong Hill Tracts, but for emigration into the former district there were till lately other causes, and men from the Chittagong Hill Tracts also emigrate into Hill Tipperah. The hill revenue has, as pointed out, been greatly impaired during the last few years. The raids of 1870-71 inflicted much suffering, and no tax could be levied from the villages affected; while the cultivation was diminished and the quantity of cotton exported was consequently below the average. In 1871-72 large numbers of the hillmen were drafted away as coolies to supply carriage for the contingent with me, while others were sent to join the left column; this happened during the jooming season, and large allowances had again to be made, as owing to diminished cultivation the full tax could not be levied. The deaths from cholera also, by breaking up several families, permanently lowered the demand *pro tanto*. Last season (1872-73) the draft of coolies for service with the survey, both on the north and south of the State has had a similar effect, and the people now urgently require a few seasons of rest to regain their former position. I fervently hope that there may be no necessity for making any calls on them for some time to come.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

12. Though considerable reforms have been introduced during the current year, I have little to add to my report of last year on this subject as regards the working of the Hill Tipperah courts. During 1872, I believe, the people had little confidence in them, and it will be seen from the statement appended that they were sparingly resorted to. The law administered in them underwent no alteration; it was still mainly a system of equity and good conscience qualified by a few enactments, the only value of which was to limit penalties in criminal cases. There was no regular procedure, and no supervision by the higher courts over the lower. During the current year, since Baboo Nilmoni Das, formerly Sub-Registrar of Comillah, has been appointed Dewan, great improvements have been effected. A painstaking, conscientious young man, a connection of the Rajah's has been made Magistrate. Registers have been opened, a methodical system introduced, and cases that used to take months to decide are now disposed of in as many days. To return, however, to last year. The following is a

statement of work done :—

Criminal—

Cases pending at the commencement of the year		158
New cases instituted		306
	Total	464

Of these there were—

Petty cases	249
Cases of a graver nature	173
Miscellaneous cases	42

The cases were disposed of as follows :—

Punishment inflicted	97
Dismissed	238
Compromised	26
Decreed (cases of forcible dispossession)	16
Pending at close of year	87

Appeals—

Pending at commencement of year		10
Instituted during year		25
	Total	35

Disposed of as follows—

Judgment of lower court confirmed	14
Reversed	1
Rejected	3
Pending at close of year	17

In 26 of the 464 cases British subjects were concerned; 14 as defendants and 12 as complainants. In nine cases the defendants (British subjects) were apprehended within the State and tried. The following are some particulars regarding them :—

1. Charge : Focibly taking away a buffalo—Struck off in default.
2. Charge : Cattle trespass.—Struck off in default.
3. Charge : Assault.—Dismissed on merits.
4. Charge :Theft of cloth.—Dismissed on merits.
5. Charge : Mischief by killing a buffalo.—Dismissed on merits.
6. Charge : Forcibly taking away a mat.—Dismissed, because complainant failed to bring his own witnesses who live in Government territory.
7. Charge : Assualt.—Struck off in default.
8. Charge : Theft.—Dismissed on merits.
9. Charge : Theft.—Dismissed on merits.

Three of the remaining cases were charges against British subjects, who were not apprehended; no application however was made for their arrest, because (it is stated) that in some similar cases the Magistrates of the neighbouring districts had declined to deliver up the defendants. In another of the remaining cases (a serious charge of grievous hurt, whence death is said to have ensued), an application has been made for the surrender of the accused, which was granted, but they have not yet been arrested. The remaining case is one of forcible dispossession of land, which was decreed in favor of the complainant. This was the only case of the 14 in which the judgment was adverse to the defendant.

Cases in which British subjects were complainants (12).

1. Charge : Wrongful confinement.—Dismissed on merits.
2. Charge : Wrongful confinement.—Struck off in default.
3. Charge : Theft (of paddy).—Rejected, being out of the court's jurisdiction.
4. Charge : Assault.—Defendant fined Rs.5.
5. Charge : * Wrongful confinement.—Struck off in default.
6. Charge : Assault.—Defendants fined Rs. 5.
7. Charge : Assault.—Defendants fined Rs. 6 (1), and Rs. 5 each (3) respectively.
8. Charge : Plunder of paddy.—Rejected as being out of the court's jurisdiction.
9. Charge : Assault and hurt.—Rejected for the same reason.
10 Charge : Defamation.—Rejected for the same reason.
11. Charge : Wrongful confinement.—Struck off in default.
12. Charge : Assault.—Struck off in default.

Civil

Number of cases pending at the commencement of the year	372
Instituted during the year	229
Total	601
Cases affecting immovable property	16
Cases affecting movable Property	585

In 16 cases British subjects were concerned as plaintiffs, but none it appears as defendants.

Cases disposed of.

Decreed in favor of plaintiff	145
Decreed in favor of defendant	341
Pending at close of the year	115
Number of appeals	29

Disposed of thus : —

Judgment confirmed	5
Judgment reversed confirmed	5
Appeals rejected confirmed	1
Pending at the close of the year	18
The average number of prisoners in jail	11

The jail itself is a mere shanty, with a mat iattee round it. Some of the prisoners wear irons, they do a little work about the roads; there is no discipline, and prisoners are, I hear, sometimes allowed to go home for a few days, giving merely a promise to return. As mentioned before, they are sometimes set free in a body on great occasions.

Towards the close of the year a sub-division was opened at Koilashur, in the north-eastern portion of the State bordering on Sylhet. I have received a statement of the judicial work done there up to the close of the year, which is as follows:—

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* This was a charge brought by a husband against the purents of his wife.

Criminal

Total number of cases	54
Disposed of as follows :—	
Punishment inflicted	23
Dismissed	23
Pending at close of year	8
Number of appeals (pending)	1

Civil

Total number of cases (all effecting movable property)	30
Decreed in favor of plaintiff	17
Dismissed	5
Pending at close of year	5
Number of appeals (pending)	1

No return as to prisoners in jail. The officer in charge is a former Government servant, who bears a high character for integrity and ability; he was transferred from Government service to the Rajahs under Resolution No. 4359, dated the 14th October, 1871.

EXTRADITION

During the year some changes were introduced in the procedure that formerly obtained. The provisions of Act XI of 1872 were made applicable to Hill Tipperah, and the Lieutenant-Governor directed that under section 8 of the Act, cases where British subjects charged with any offence were arrested in Hill Tipperah should be tried by the Political Agent, provided the Rajah did not object. At an interview with the Rajah held for the purpose of explaining to him the provisions of Act XI of 1872, and of ascertaining what action he proposed to take, I was led to believe that he consented to this course, though unwillingly. It appears, however, that he either did not quite understand the Act or that he has changed his mind since. The matter forms the subject of a separate communication.

The only case tried by me under section 8 of the Act during the year was one at Koilashur, where a sepoy of the 44th committed an assault in the bazar. The affair was settled amicably, and the case struck off.

There were no cases under sections 11 to 13 of the Act,—that mentioned before* being an old pending case; in fact, the cases in which British subjects are concerned either as complainants or defendants form a very small proportion of the whole number of trials. Another change introduced was that the police of the surrounding districts might follow up persons committing offences in British territory and escaping into Hill Tipperah, on the condition of bringing them, if arrested, before the Rajahs officers. In more than one case it was said that the police could have found the body of a murdered man, arrested the murderer, and brought him to justice, had they had this power at the time. There does not seem to have been any occasion to use it since permission was given.

* Page 11.

Some miscellaneous judicial work was done during the year, of which a statement is appended.

CASES INVESTIGATED

1. *Sonamura case.*—The Ghatwals of Sonamura were charged with having killed two men bringing down forest produce. Investigated by the Political Agent on the spot and reported on. No *corpus delicti* was found, and the accused were discharged by the Rajah's court. A counter charge of illegal assembly, riot, &c., was brought by the Ghatwals against a number of British subjects belonging to the party, which is said to have included the two murdered men. It was tried by the Magistrate of Tipperah, sanction being given by the Political Agent to the prosecution under section 9 of Act XI of 1872. No record is here of the final result of the case,

but it terminated, if I remember rightly, in the conviction of the accused, who were sentenced to three months imprisonment.

2. Charge against one of the Rajah's lessees of exacting tolls on forest produce brought from Government territory. This was on the borders of Sylhet. On investigation the charge appeared untenable.

There were five requisitions for arrest of absconding offenders :—

1. From District Superintendent of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, to arrest coolies absconding from the Right Column, Lushai Expeditionary Force said to be in Hill Tipperah. Though I personally made all possible search on the spot, I could discover no trace whatever of these men.

2. From Commissioner, Dacca, Charge against an inhabitant of Hill Tipperah of wrongful confinement. Requisition complied with.

3. From Commissioner of Dacca. Charge of non-obedience to summons. Defendant not found.

4. From Commissioner of Dacca. Charge—Escaping from lawful custody. Defendant not found.

5. From Commissioner of Dacca. Charge—Kidnapping from lawful guardianship. Requisition compiled with.

Commissions issued to take evidence :

(1) Moonsiff of Amirgong through the Judge of Tipperah. Returned unexecuted; witness not found.

(2) Moonsiff of Kuslah through the Judge of Tipperah. Executed.

(3) From Moonsiff of Chowdagram through the Judge of Tipperah. Returned unexecuted owing to absence of Political Agent from head-quarters.

There were also two boundary cases investigated by me on the spot (the Sylhet boundary) and the results reported of Government in my No. $Z/_{98}$, dated 24th December, 1872.

MILITARY AND POLICE

13. These two have to be classed together, as to a certain extent they have been amalgamated, but broadly it may be stated that in 1872 the total strength of the military force was about 250, and of the civil police 200. The way in which the military force was organized is as follows :—Four court favorites were appointed to commands : two with the title of captain and two with that of subadar; each was allowed to recruit whomsoever he liked, and as many men as he liked, till the Rajah chose to interfere. It was custom with three of these officers to take from each sepoy under him a month's pay in the year as a *douceur*. The pay of a sepoy being Rs. 4 a month; under such circumstances it was impossible for a sepoy to live on his pay; his superior did not care in the least what became of him as long as the douceur was paid, and the consequence was that after a short course of slovenly drill, the recruit returned to his fields, appearing whenever he was required for an escort or to mount guard. A cultivator or laborer near Agurtollah is only too glad to take service on these terms : he draws pay in return for very slight services which scarcely interfere in any way with his ordinary occupations, while the fact of his being a sepoy exempts him and his family from forced cooly labor, and gives him some social status. New uniforms have not been served out for two years, owing to the lack of money, so that altogether these three officers companies, or *braduries* as they are called, present a most ludicrous appearance whenever they turn out, more like a set of animated scarecrows than anything else I can think of. I have frequently tried to get the Rajah to abolish these men altogether, which could easily be done without injuring anybody, but I only succeeded in getting the *douceur* system abolished. The officers, one of whom has recently had the title of commandant bestowed on him, are great favorites, and would be reduced to nonentities were their offices abolished; besides, the influence I referred to in a former part of this report was at work. I am glad to have a more favorable report to make of the fourth commander and his men. Though, like the others, he knows little or nothing of drill, and nothing whatever of active service, he is wise enough to leave all that to his subordinates to do. In his *bradurie* are all the Goorkhas and other foreigners, who could be of use if called into action. Their

pay is Rs. 6 a month, subject to no *douceur*, with batta when on active service. These men during the year 1872 were in a fairly effective state. I used to see them drilled nearly every day, and occasionally go with them to target practice. They are now, I regret to say, fast leaving the Rajahs service, being disgusted by the promotion over their heads of men from the other *braduries* whom they despise with good reason; they are also tempted by the high pay now obtainable by recruits in the Arakan police. Promotion goes altogether by favor of the Rajah, and having no connection with any of the court people they are constantly being passed over. I urged their claims frequently on the Rajah, and some were in consequence promoted, but the body of them are still discontented; and, unless some new system is introduced, all the good men are sure to go. The great difficulty just now is want of money (the ryots, as mentioned before, are withholding their rents, and it will be as much as the Rajah can do to pay the Government revenue this year without borrowing). Till some comes in, the Rajah would perhaps not be justified in adding to his expenses by increased pay to sepoys; but, on the other hand, there are ample opportunities for finding the money by retrenchments in the proper quarter. A suggestion I made last year is being gradually carried out, viz., that of stopping recruiting and absorbing the unnecessary sepoys on the civil police. The number of thannahs is eight, and of outposts ten; one only, Koilashur, is garrisoned by sepoys alone, the others either by civil police alone, or civil and military police together. There are four darogahs, 37 jemadars and other officers, and 173 burkundazes in the civil police; they resemble in most respects our own police before 1861. I have heard of no charges of torture to extort confessions made against them. The chief inducement thereto is lacking. There is no pressing for convictions, and no blame is attached to an investigating officer for failing to obtain sufficient evidence when such was not ready to hand. I hope next year to give a full account of their work; to do so now would entail a delay of weeks, if not months. Till lately no proper system of registers existed, and when any information is required, the miscellaneous records of a whole year have to be ransacked in order to obtain it.

EDUCATION

14. There are two schools in the State supported by the Rajah. That at Agurtollah is conducted on the same principles as our zillah schools; two masters teach English, and two Bengalee and Sanscrit. It musters between thirty and forty scholars, many of whom belong to the Rajah's family (his sons do not attend the school, they are being taught privately, and are all learning English); others are sons of men holding office in the State, of talukdars living in the vicinity, and others. One or two Mahomedans also attend. Nearly all belong to the better classes. The school is managed by a committee, of which I am President. It was proposed to affiliate it with the Tipperah Government School, and at the request of the committee I wrote to Mr. Clarke, Inspector of schools, Dacca Division, on the subject; when, however, it was found that the only benefit to be derived would be supervision unaccompanied by a grant or separate exhibitions, the proposal was promptly withdrawn. It seems the members of the committee made the proposal at the request of the head-master, who being at the time master in a Government school (on leave), wished to remain in the Rajah's service without resigning his claim to pension from Government. Another school was opened by the Deputy Superintendent at Koilashur. I visited it several times while in that part of the country; it promises well, and the number of scholars is on the increase. It opened with eight or nine, which number was trebled in a few of months. The hill people are totally uneducated, while a few of the inhabirants of the plains on the border received instruction from village muktabs. The head-master of the school at Agurtollah is away for the Durgapujah vacation, taking the keys of the school record boxes with him, and since my return from leave there has not been time to obtain much information regarding primary education in the mofussil. This subject has not therefore, been treated as fully as I should wish.

MUNICIPALLY

15. A municipality was instituted in Agurtollah in 1871, of which I am Chairman. Hitherto taxation has not

been necessary, as the Rajah has supplied the resources from the pound fund, judicial fines, and other sources known as the "General Fund". The sum received in 1872 was Rs. 3,100, most of which was spent in building a bridge, making roads through the bazar, and repairing sheds for market days, &c., &c. The great want of Agurtollah is roads; there is actually no road from Agurtollah to Kusba, a town about sixteen miles off, and the nearest point in a straight line between Agurtollah and Comillah to the road which runs from Comillah to Brahmunbaria. To get to Comillah during the rains one has either to go by boat, taking three days in a dry season, such as this year was, or by elephant, in and out the ridges of paddy fields, followed by the execrations of ryots whose paddy the elephants must destroy more or less. I have a proposal on foot for a road to Kusba; the Rajah to make the road as far as the boundary of Hill Tipperah, and to supply the land for the rest of the road which would run through his zemindary, and the Road Cess Committee to supply the labor from the boundary of Hill Tipperah to Kusba.

TRADE

16. This subject may be dealt with in a few words. The only exports of any importance are cotton and timber, and as no statistics whatever exist, I can only make approximate guesses as to the extent of the trade. I estimate the export of cotton in this way. The Kapas Mehal (cotton duties) is leased out at Rs. 45,000. Each maund of cotton pays on an average about Rs. 1 of duty, add 10 per cent for ghats held khas, and we get approximate total quantity exported 54,000 maunds. In the same way the gross value of tolls on timber and other forest produce exported would be Rs. 30,000. About 5 per cent of this is said to be derived from the tolls on timber alone, and supposing the toll to be .002 per cent of the value, the approximate value of timber exported would be Rs. 75,000, and of other forest produce Rs. 1,10,000.* For various reasons, such as raids, expeditions, and general alarm, the trade has not been flourishing during the last few years, and the lessees have lost by it; but careful management and a little enterprise would soon render it profitable. The uninhabited portions of the hills abound in wild elephants, and there are usually kheddahs every year in four or five different places. Last year 150 elephants were caught, the Rajah receiving one-fourth of the number for his share, the value of which was Rs. 35,000.

REFORMS INTRODUCED.

17. As frequently pointed out before, the great evil in the State is, that the subordinates were, and in some cases still are, as a rule, neither trustworthy nor efficient in themselves, while the system of under-paying them force them to questionable means to secure a livelihod. In this respect a new reqime has been introduced, and the new appointments are those of men selected for their probity and ability. I refer especially to the appointment of Baboo Nilmani Dass, formerly Sub-Registrar of Comillah, to the post of Dewan, and to that of Baboo Durga Prosad Gupta, formerly Civil Court Ameen of Bramunbaria, to the charge of the Koilashur sub-division, both under Resolution No. 4359, dated 14th October, 1871. Dr. Stock, Medical Officer of Comillah, was also transferred to the service of the Rajah under the same Resolution, but he did not take up his duties here till 1873. Neither did Baboo Nilmani Dass come till 1873; but I cannot refrain from bearing testimony here to the influence for good which he exercises; and I hope next year to have a long list of reforms to report on, carried out by him; he has already succeeded in introducing some method and punctuality in the courts, the dilatoriness of which used to be extreme. Other business, too, is being disposed of more rapidly than heretofore, notwithstanding that zemindary matters alone give him an overwhelming quantity of work. I look upon him as a great acquisition to Hill Tipperah for all parties. I have already reported on the part which Baboo Durga Prosad Gupta took during the survey of 1872-73, and would repeat the hope I expressed in my report on the

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* The calculation is made at 25 per cent. of the value in the case of general forest produce. The rate of tolls on timber is almost nominal.

survey that his services might receive recognition from Government. The hospital in charge of Dr. Stock is a great success; already the number of patients treated exceeds 1,00. The Rajah supplies medicine, and Dr. Stock his services gratis.

ESTABLISHMENT, &C.

18. The establishment of the Political Agency underwent no change during the year. It consists of one English clerk in Rs, 70 a month, one orderly and one duftry chuprassee, each on Rs 6. The residence of the Political Agent was not finished during the year, owing to the difficulty of getting workmen, but was habitable by October, 1872. A grant of Rs. 3,000 was sanctioned towards its construction, and the Rajah also rendered assistance as requested by Government. A house was also built for the clerk.

19. In conclusion, I have to express my regret that this report has been so long delayed, the cause being that I was absent on leave till the beginning of this month.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT
OF THE POLITICAL AGENCY, HILL TIPPERAH, FOR THE YEAR 1873-74

No. 176, dated Agurtollah, the 15th July 1874.
From-CAPTAIN E. G. LILLINGSTON, Officiating Political Agent, Hill Tipperah,
To-The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Political Department.

I have the honor herewith to submit the Annual Administration Report of the Political Agency, Hill Tipperah, for the financial year 1873-74, in accordance with instructions contained in your office letter No. 1238, dated 27th March last.

2. The report for 1872 was nominally up to the 31st December of that year; but, owing to the fact that the Political Agent was engaged in the interior on survey work up to April 1873, the report, as regards "general events of the year" extended up to the date of his return to head quarters.

3. Some account of the survey operations was given in paragraph 7 of the annual report for 1872, and the final report on those operations (No. 61, dated 26th May 1873) contains a very full and descriptive narrative ; consequently it will not be necessary for me to refer to the matter any further here.

4. Two questions, however, may be said to have arisen out of those survey operations, to which I must refer. The first was the *fixing what is to be the precise eastern boundary of Hill Tipperah.* This has been disposed of in the Government of India's letter No. 7P, dated the 2nd January 1874. The Lungai River between the Haichik and Jampoi ranges to its source in the Betlieng-Sile Peak, then across to the Doljuree Peak, and then by the recognized southern boundary to the Fenny River, has been fixed upon as the boundary. However, the details remain to be worked out.*

5. The other question is, the *defence of Hill Tipperah frontier.* The Rajah was requested to state what measures he was capable of undertaking for establishing a defensive line of outposts on the verge of his own cultivation, with a view to strengthening the sylhet portion of the line, and covering British Tipperah.

6. It appears that between the acknowledged limits of the Lushai territory and the eastern boundary of Hill Tipperah fixed as above stated, there is a strip of uninhabited land covered with dense jungle. The Rajah, stating that he understood that the Government had, by fixing the eastern boundary of his territory between the two ranges named, annexed this strip of land, replied that he did not consider himself bound to provide for the defence of his eastern boundary from attack by tribes inhabiting country to the east of land so annexed. He argued that the Lushais would have to pass through country in the occupation of Government, before they could come to raid in Hill Tipperah, or in any of the Government, territories to the north, West, or South of it.

7. This was altogether a misconception of facts, which was pointed out to the Rajah ; and in Mr. Power's report No. 141, dated 20th February1874, forwarded with my No. 58 of the 28th idem, he made certain suggestion as to the points at which posts should be established along the northern boundary of Hill Tipperah marching with Sylhet, and on the eastern boundary, so as to protect British Tipperah. The Rajah has now consented to establish these posts (*vide* my No. 93 of 27th March last), and the matter awaits the orders of Government.

8-9. Towards the end of May 1873, the Political Agent proceeded to Darjeeling to see Sir George Campbell, and thence on leave of absence, from which he did not return till the commencement of October. In the beginning of December he went into the interior on his cold weather tour, and has been good enough to supply me with the following report regarding his movements.

"(1)—Left Agurtollah on the 1st December 1873, and proceeded to Bisalghur. This pergunnah has been leased to Nurdhig Thakoor, a relation by marriage of the Rajah. Complaints were made of his management, to the effect that he abused his influence with the Rajah in order to enrich himself at the expense of the ryots. This was only one side of the story, and the matter being represented to the Rajah, assurances were given that

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* Since writing this the boundary line has been market on the map. it remains now to notify to the Lushais where the line has been fixed.

measures would be taken to remove any cause of complaint.

"(2). Returned to Agurtollah on the 10th December. Left Agurtollah again on the 22nd December, and went on tour up the river Goomtee. In this as well as in the last tour the state of the country as regards food-supply was enquired into and reported on in due course.

"(3) The main object of the second tour, however, was to visit the colony of the Chukmas, who, to the number of 400, had emigrated from the Chittagong Hill Tracts in 1873. By the time I reached their villages it had become known that Captain Lewin, Deputy Commissioner of the Hill Tracts, was going home, and that I was to officiate for him. The Chukmas were therefore very reserved ; and in reply to my enquiries regarding the cause of their emigration confined themselves to stating generally that they had exhausted their joom land near their own home, and came to Hill Tipperah on account of the splendid opportunities available their for joom cultivation.

"(4) I had previously enquired, through the Rajah's officials, as to the reason of their emigration, and the result was reported in my No. 50, dated the 10th May 1872. It is plain that, besides the coolie question, some of the same causes were at work which induced the Riangs of Hill Tipperah to emigrate in such numbers into the Chittagong Hill Tracts. As soon as any obligation, legal or otherwise, becomes too irksome to be borne, the remedy is in their own hands ; they have merely to take the opportunity of one of their periodical imigrations to cross the border, change their allegiance, and cancel their allegiance, and cancel their debts.

"(5) Among these nomads on the south-eastern boundary of Hill Tipperah, along the Fenny, there is a class who systematically escape all obligations of allegiance to either Government by judiciously changing their quarters when measures are taken by one Government or the other to bring them under control. To them, and to all 'Joomeahs,' immigration is no hardship, it involves a few day's work only, and takes place of necessity every three years or so, when the joom land in the neighbourhood of the village has been exhausted.

"(6) The immigration of these Chukmas to the upper waters of the Goomtee is a great gain to Hill Tipperah. That part of the country has for years been deserted owing to the occurrence of Lushai raids, and fear of a repetition of them. The people of Hill Tipperah have and ingrained terror of Lushais, which would be ludicrous were it not so well founded. They did not withness the effect of the expedition, and do not believe in its efficacy. They think the Syloos are still prepared to sweep down on them any day, and shake their heads doubtingly when told that the Syloos, Howlongs, and their old enemy Sukpillal, have come to terms. The example of the Chukmas will probably open out the country and afford what the 'Joomeahs' of Hill Tipperah feel the want of so much, namely, fresh 'joom' land.

"(7) The want referrd to was brought prominently to notice on my return journey from Oodeypore across country to Agurtollah. I passed through Riang Jamaitya and Raj-Bungshee Villages, the Hills round which had been joomed over and over again. Jooming is a most exhustive method of agriculture ; three or four crops are grown at the same time on the same soil, consequently a second crop will not be a full one. If possible, the land is allowed to lie fallow for ten years, when the jungle which has grown up in the meantime is felled and burnt, the ashes serving as manure. But the circumstances indicated in the last preceding paragraph prevent the 'Joomeahs' from moving castwards, the only direction where fresh virgin joom land is available. The hills near these villages have therefore to be joomed after evry three years or so, the consequences of which are short crops and need of the mahajun.

"(8) I mention a circumstance which happened to me on this tour. While looking for a Sambhur, my rifle, which I was carrying at the 'trail' with the muzzle downwards, touched the spring of a snare used for killing deer, it sprung, and the spear passed a couple of inches in front of my body ; had I sprung the snare with my foot instead of with the rifle, I should in all probability have been killed.

"A man was killed on the spot by a similar snare a few weeks before. That case was officially reported,

as the deceased was a British subject. Stringent orders have, I understand, been issued prohibiting the setting of such traps ; their use is a consequence of the difficulties put in the way of obtaining guns and ammunition.

"(9) I returned to Agurtollah on the 25th January 1874, and left to take up my new appointment on the 2nd February. It was my intention to have visited the Darlong and Poitoo Kookees in February and March, but I could not do so on annount of my having to join that appointment.

"The 20th May 1874. *A. W. B. Power."*

[Note—As regards the incident mentioned at the close of Mr. Power's report, they manage those things better in the Lohardugga distric in Chota Nagpore. When I was stationed there, some of the native shikarees rigged up one of their bows used in the jungle for destroying wild animals. The bow is concealed in the jungle near some known path taken by the animals, usually towards water, and fastened with a spring apparently similar to the one Mr. Power came across; but strings are placed sufficiently high above the ground that an animal crouchin along would pass under them, and a human being would, however, come against then and discharge the arrow harmlessly before he could reach the spot where the spring is placed.]

10. But to resume. On my return from furlough I was appointed to act as Political Agent in Hill Tipperah, and on the 11th February last I took over charge from the Magistrate of Tipperah, and after disposing of the cases fixed to be heard at Comillah, I came to Agurtollah on the 16th February. It was very unfortunate my just missing Mr. Power. I should have liked to have talked over matters with him, and would then have been better informed, and in less time, of what had taken place and was then going on ; this, under the circumstances, I could only become acquainted with by perusing the correnpondence in the office. The cold season being then considerably advanced, and finding plenty of employment at head quarters in looking up the correspondence, which I could not well carry about with me, I was unable to go into the interior, as I wished, and have remained at head quarters to the close of the year under report, which has been devoid of any events worthy of mention. I now propose to give what information and statistics I have been able to collect during my short tenure of office.

PAST HISTORY OF HILL TIPPERAH

11. In last year's report a general description of Hill Tipperah wa given. Perhaps a short outline of its past history, prepared from such materials as are available, may not be out of place. The present Rajah, Beer Chunder Dev Burmon, claims descent from the Lunar race of kings who reigned over India. Drujha, the third son of Jojati, one of that race of kings, is said to be the founder of the dynasty. The succession is traced down from him in a direct line to his descendant Daitya (son of Chittra-Ratha, Rajah of Chedi,* situated on the river Shuktamati—See Mahabhurrut, Adi-Purba, Chapter 64, pages 98,99 and 100, compiled by Kali Prosunno Singh), including about thirty eight reigns. Daitya is said to have left his father's dominions and established his sovereignty in that part of the country now called Tipperah, including the hills extending to Burnmah.

Rani Shushila, the widow of Chittra-Ratha, mentioned above, left her husband's kingdom and took refuge with her son, the said daitya, in his new home. A son and heir was born to daitya who succeded him. His name was Tripur. After him the family is called that of Tripura, or, as it is now called, Tipperah.

12. Rajah Tripur was opposed to the worship of Shiva, and oppressed the votaries of that deity, which caused numbers of his subjects to fly to Cachar. Not meeting with encouragement from the king of that place, they returned after only five year's absence. Being still oppressed, it is said, they prayed to their god Shiva, who told them that Tripur was to die shortly, and that his widow would have a posthumous son, who would be called Trilochun (meaning a man with three eyes). This happened as predicted. Trilochun succeeded his father. He married a dauthter of the king of Hiramba, Cachar, and had 12 sons. The present Rajah claims to belong to the family of Dukhin, one of those sons, and to be 134th in descent from the abovementioned Daitya, and 173rd from Drujha, the founder of the dynasty.

13. I am much indebted to Baboo Nilmani Das, the Rajah's dewan, for some of the above information : he

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* I am quite unable to discover to what place and river these names refor.

also furnished me with a list showing how the various successions took place from the founder of the dynansty, Drujha, to Trilochun.

14. After Trilochun, some 77 or 78 kings reigned over Tripura, and then Jairapha ascended the throne. At this time there would appear to have been a second king reigning over the hill country; for we are told in a history of Tipperah, in the 4th volume of the Rohasya Sundarleha, No. 46 (from which the following it taken), that Jairapha attacked the king of Oodeypore named Neika, vanquished him, and made Oodeypore the capital of the Tripura kingdom. I know of no other Oodeypore in this part of the country than the one in the southern part of Hill Tipperah.

15. The next king mentioned in the work above named is Kishen Pha, the 98th king of Tripura who had 18 sons, and was succeeded by the youngest of them, who was the first king of Tripura, who obtained the title of "Manik" (Meaning a "gem") from the Mussulman ruler of Gour (in Maldah). He was succeeded by his brother Dhurno Manik, who ascened the throne in 1407 A.D. In 1439 his son became Rajah, and on his death a brother of Dhurmo Manik succeeded to the throne; he invaded Bengal, but was driven back to his own territory. However, he took possession of Khundul (there is a pergunnah to the south of Hill Tipperah of this name) belonging to the Mussulmans. This king dug a large tank in Commillah (still existing), and a fine piece of water it is. It is called "Dhurm Sagur".

16. We next come to A.D. 1512, when Sridhurma, king of Tripura, defeated the king of Gour, and took Chittagong from him. In return, Hossein Shah, king of Bengal, sent an army against Tripura, and captured the fort called Meherkool (the ruins of this fort are to be seen near Comillah); he was afterwards defeated and driven off. Again he sent another army which laid seige to Rangamatee, but was dispersed by stratagem. The king of Tripura caused a stream to be dammed up, and when sufficient water was collected, he suddenly cut the dam, and flooded the enemies troops.

17. In 1591 *A.D.*, Jusso Dhur Manik ascended the throne, and for 21 years carried on a war with the Pathan King, Hossein Shah. About this time or a little later, between 1612 and 1620 *A.D.*, in the reign of Jehangir, Emperor of Delhi, a Mogul force, under command of Futteh Jung, invaded Tripura for the purpose of procuring horses and elephants. He defeated the king of Tripura, and sent him a prisoner to Delhi. He was released on agreeing to pay tribute in elephants and horses. In 1625 *A.D.*, when Kullyan Manik became king, the Emperor of Delhi endeavoured to enforce the payment of the tribute agreed upon, which had been withheld. The Nawab of Moorshedabad was sent to invade Tripura, but was defeated.

18. From all accounts there seems to be little doubt that the Moguls dispossessed the kings of Tripura of most, if not all, of their possessions in the plains which they formerly held, but it does not appear that they ever outsted them from the hills; yet it would seen, from the influence exercised by the Moguls in Hill Tipperah, thay they looked upon the kings of that part as holding their kingdom as tributaries to the reigning power in India.

19. In a memorandum on the North-East Frointier of Bengal, by Mr. Mackenzie, C.S., published in 1869, at page 49, I find some notes by Mr. Geoghegan, late Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, referring to an article in the 19th volume of the Journal of the Asiatic Society. That article seems to give much the same account as I have given from the work quoted above, that, from about 1250 *A.D.*, the Mussulmans seem to have had a hankering after Tipperah, and that they and the Tipperah Rajahs for many years were at constant feuds, but that the Rajahs held their own till the invasion of Futteh Jung, mentioned above.

20. In 1734 *A.D.*, it appears that the Nabob of Dacca placed Juggut Ram on the throne of Tipperah. Mussulman troops were placed in the country, and the name of the capital changed to Reshunabad (the plains held by the Rajah of Hill Tipperah as zemindar under Government are still called by that name), and that, subsequently, Tipperah seems to have become really a Mogul province. Ultimately, in 1808, the English Government recognized Durgah Manick as Rajah, and since then every successive Rajah has received

investiture from the British Government, and is required to pay the usual "nuzzur" on his succession.

21. Mr. Geoghegan concludes his note as follows :- "From this sketch it is clear that the Mussulmans, from a date little subsequent to 1600 *A.D.*, consistently put forth a claim to tribute from the Rajah of Tipperah as a conquered province, and that they were actual masters of the plain country for years. How the present distinction between the Rajah's zemindari and independent Tipperah arose, the article I have borrowed from does not show; but it seems to me clear that the only thing which prevented the Mussulmans occupying Hill Tipperah was the absence of any inducement to do so in the nature or products of the country."

22. This is a very brief outline of the past history of the Tipperah state. My excuse for its not being fuller is want of materials. The Raj-Mala is a sealed volume. I believe the Rajah promised or half promised to allow Mr. Power to see it, but I have not obtained a glimpse of it. At present I am unable to give an account of the raids and counter-raids which have taken place during late years. The chief causes of these are well known to Government, and it seems to be thought that the measures which have been taken will prevent their recurrence, at least for a time. However, it would appear that the Tipperahs in the hills hardly entertain this opinion; but in time, it is to be hoped, that their fears will vanish. The noticeable effect of their raids now is that the eastern part of the state is left uninhabited; the hills, so well adapted for jooming, are left to the occupation of wild elephants and beasts of prey, and the greater part of the population of the distribt is crowded to the north-west and south of the state.

POPULATION OF HILL TIPPERAH

23. I regret to say that circumstances have prevented any census being taken during the year under report. The taking of one appears to have been comtemplated by Mr. Power (paragraph 8 of the report for 1872), but on my speaking to the dewan about this and other matters, I was met by the excuse of want of cash. I believe, however, that the population of the Hills could be enumerated with the existing establishment, and with little, if any, extra cost to the state. The manner in which part of the revenue of the hills is assessed was explained in the report for 1872. The headmen of the various tribes assemble at Agurtollah during the Durga Poojah festival, and settle with the Rajah the amount to be paid for their respective tribes; each tribe is assessed at so much per family, no matter what number it may contain. This family tax is known by the name of *ghur-chukti*. The amount settled to be paid at the last assessment, exclusive of the hill people within the sub-division of Koilashur, and the estimated number of families and of persons, is shown in the following Table A. An allowance, however, must be made for families exempted from assessment on account of poverty or for other reasons :-

A

Tribes	Rate per family per annum		Amount settle to be paid per tribe at last assessment.		Estitmated number of families in each tribe.	Estimated number of persons calculating an average of 5 per family.	Remarks
	Rs	A.	Rs.	A.			
1. Riangs	10	0	4,320	0	432	2,160	This statement shows only the families on whom assessments were made. The number of families exemptal from assessment could not be given.
2. Nuwaityas	10	0	6,150	0	615	3,075	
3. Tipperahs (asl)	3	4	1,306	8	402	2,010	
4. Jamaityas	3	4	2,171	0	417	3,340	
5. Hallams	3	4	1,355	4	417	2,085	
6. Kookies	1	10	162	8	100	500	
Total	.....		15,465	4	2,634	13,170	

The following statement, received from the sub-divisional officer at Koilashur, gives the estimated number for that part of the state :-

B

Tribes	No. of families	Men	Women	Boys under 12 years of age.	Girls under 12 years of age.	Total number of persons.	Remarks
Tipperals (including) the four tribes first mentioned in statement A....	950	1,730.	1,667	1,326	1,269	5,991	These figures give an average of very nearly six persons per family.
Hallams.....	292	535	500	338	327	1,700	
Kookies	331	443	616	200	255	1,614	
Total.....	1,563	2,817	2,773	1,864	1,861	9,305	

24. From these two statements the total number of the Hill population would seem to be about 22,475, exclusive of unassessed families. With a view to testing the lists of houses and families submitted by the headmen, a special agency has since been employed with orders to take a census along with that work, if possible. When this is completed, the dewan has promised to take a census of population, Bengalees and others inhabiting the plaing country under the hills, and along and within the northern, western, and southern boundaries of the state. At present we have no reliable statistics of this class; the number of families is estimated at 4,339.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

25. On the 23rd April, 1872, Mr. Power submitted his first report on the administration of justice in Hill Tipperah, and in that for 1872 he reffered to the subject thus :- "Though considerable reforms have been introduced during the current year (1873), I have little to add to my report of last year on this subject as regards the working of the Hill Tipperah courts." I have now to report on the changes and reforms which have been introduced. I remark, first, that from the increased number of new institutions during the year under report, compared with those during 1872, it would seem that the confidence of the people in the administration of justice is increasing. The statement appended shows the institutions and the manner of disposals, both in the criminal and civil courts.

26. Formerly there were only a few rules by which the courts were to be guided in trying cases. In 1873-74 the Rajah passed the following enactments :-

	No. I.	Criminal Procedure Code.
	" II.	Police Guide.
of 1283, T.E.	" III.	Abkari Acts.
	" Iv.	Cattle Trespass Act.
	" V.	Regulating the manner in which the drafts of Acts, &C., are to be made.
	No. I.	Limitation Act.
	II.	Civil Procedure Code.
of 1284, T.E.	" III.	An Act regulating the manner in which decisions, &e., are to be written.
	" IV.	Municipal Act.

A Penal Code is under consideration.

As might be expected, these enactments are not very brilliant specimens of legislation; but they have the advantage of simplicity, and can be easily understood by those concerned. More elaborate productions would probably do more harm than good. Formerly there were no registers of any kind, and no proper arrangement of records; registers have now been opened in all the courts and offices, and those I have seen seemed regularly kept, and are sufficient to answer their purpose, though rather primitive in their compilation.

27. During the last eight months of the year, 320 witnesses were examined by the Magistrate at Agurtollah, and were discharged on the day of their appearance, and 394 cases were disposed of by that officer; the average time these were pending was nine days. The number of cases pending trial at the close of the year under report was, it will be seen, much less than that pending at the close of the previous year.*

Foremerly the depositions of witnesses were allowed to be recorded and decisions written by the amlahs of the courts. Now that practice has, I believe, been altogether put a stop to. The Magistrate recorded all the depositions and wrote his own decision in the cases during the trial, of which I have been present in his court.

28. The Magistrate's court at Agurtollah, in which the criminal work, excepting that relating to the hill tribes, is done is presided over by a very painstaking, energetic young man, nephew of the Rajah, and I beleive his decisions give general satisfaction.

The deputy Superintendent at Koilashur, in the north part of the state, is a former Government servant, and is very highly spoken of.

The following statement will exhibit the judicial work done during the year under report, both in the courts at Agurtollah and in that at Koilashur :-

CRIMINAL- ORIGINAL

Cases pending from former year		98
New institutions		415
	Total	513
Petty cases		302
Cases of a graver nature		195
Miscellaneous		16
	Total	513
The cases were disposed of as follows :-		
Punishment inflicted		155
Dismissed		301
Compromised		23
Decreed (cases of foreile dispossession)		4
Pending at close of the year		23
Transferred to the political agent		7
	Total	513

Appeals Criminal.

Pending at Commencement of year		20
New institutions		28
		Total 48
Disposed of as follows :-		
Judgment of Lower Courts confirmed		16
Judgment of Lower Courts reversed		12
Judgment of Lower Courts modified		13
Remanded		4
Rejected		1
Pending at close of year		2
	Total	48

* Note—The figures given in the statement do not tally with those given in last year's report, which only gave statistics us to 31st December 1872, showing 87 cases pending. The present report gives statistics from April 1873 to April 1874.

In 71 of the 513 cases British subjects were concerned; 43 as defendants, and 28 as complinants. In 36 cases the defendants (British subjects) were apprehended within the State and tried by the Rajah's court.

The following are some particulars regarding those in which convictions were obtained ;_

1.	Charge—Theft of an umbrella, &o.,	Defendant sentenced to three months rigours imprisonment.
2.	Charge—Theft of a pillow	Defendant fined Rs. 11.
3.	Charge—Theft of cash and clothes	Defendant sentenced to three years rigorous imprisonment.*
4.	Charge—Theft of cash and clothes	Defendant punished (sub-division).
5.	Charge "Assault	Defendant sentenced to 15 days rigorous imprisonment.
6.	Charge Assault	Two defendants fined Rs. 15 and Rs. 2 respectively.
7.	Charge Assault	Defendant fined Rs. 10.
8.	Charge Assault	Defendant punished (sub-division).
9.	Charge Assault	Defendant punished (sub-division).
10.	Breach of abkari rules	One defendant punished and two accquited (sub-division).
11.	Charge-Evading payment of forest dues	Defendant punished (sub-division).
12.	Charge Neglect of duty	One defendant sentenced to three months and one to 15 days' imprisonment.
13.	Charge Wrongful confinement	Defendants fined Rs. 6 each.
14.	Charge Taking a bribe	Defendant fined Rs. 100.
15.	Charge Causing hurt	Defendant fined Rs. 10.

The rest of these 36 cases were dismissed or the defendants acquitted.

CASES IN WHICH BRITISH SUBJECTS WERE COMPLAINANTS.

Of these there were fourteen charges of simple assault; in seven of which the accused were convicted and punished. There were six cases of theft, in two of which defendants were convicted and punished.

Three of extortion, conviction obtained in one and defendant find Rs. 50.

One of mischief, one of kidnapping, and one of illegal confinement; all dismissed.

Two of cheating, conviction was obtained in one.

Civil.

Cases pending at commencement of year	123
New institutions	308
Remanded for trial	8
Total	439

* I was petitioned regarding this case. Prisoners stated they had been tortured to extort confession. I inspected the reconl. No evidence had been taken by the Magistrate. Accused had been convicted on their own statements to which bore the marks, as I thought, of a considerable amount of pressure having been used. I suggested to the Rajah to take up the case as a Court of Revision. He has caused an enquiry to be made, but the result has not yet been reported.

In 46 cases British subjects were concerned as plaintiffs and in one as defendant.

Cases disposed of—

Decreed in favor of plaintiffs		189
Decreed in favour of defendants		189
Pending at close of year		82
	Total	439

Appeals, (52)—

Judgement of lower court confirmed		26
Judgement of lower court reversed		17
Rejected		3
Remanded		1
Struck off		2
Pending at the close of year		3
	Total	52

JAILS

29. There are two jails at Agurtollah : one for confinement of hillmen only, the other for all other classes.

The jail intended for the Bengali's, &c., is a wretched place; a collection of mat huts, crowded together, surrounded by a mud bank with sloping sides. This bank will, I expect, disappear altogether in the rains; already part of it has fallen down. In constructing it, earth was dug out all round the jail, leaving a moat, but having no outlet to drain it. It is now full of stagnant water, and I fear will make the jail itself and the neighbourhood unhealthy. There is no discipline in the jail, no guard on the gate, nor sentries. The prisoners wander about much as they like, and the fact of their not running off altogether speaks well for the treatment they receive while in confinement (?). I once heard of a jailor being reproved by an inspecting officer for allowing the prisoners under his charge too much liberty, and his reply was, "What should I do? If I did not treat them well *they would not stay with me.*" Yet that was said regarding a jail with a high bamboo fencing round it, a police guard at the gate, and sentries at the four corners. I hope in time it may be possible to report more favorably in the jail arrangements.

EXTRADITION

30. This matter remains in very much the same state, as it was when last year's report was penned.

In Agurtollah itself there reside a large number of British subjects engaged in trade, service, and the like, who have left their native places in British territory and have been living in Hill Tipperah for longer or shorter periods. The Political Agent would find employment in investigating complaints and disputes among this community during the months when he cannot be out in the interior. Judicial authority, entrusted to the Political Agent, would moreover, I believe, indirectly place him in a better position for exercising that personal influence with the Rajah which is so essential for causing reforms in many things. It would also give him more opportunities for obtaining information as to what is going on in the state, than he now has. For this very reason the Rajah is sure to be induced by his counsellors to raise objections to it.

31. At present the Political Agent acting under the orders of Government, contained in paragraph 2 of letter No. 3258, dated 28th May 1872, only tries cases under sections 11 to 13 of Act XI of 1872, viz., those in which British subjects who have committed offences falling within schedule No. II annexed to the act, in Hill Tipperah, escape into or are arrested in British territory. During the year under report, thirteen such cases were before the Political Agent, including 7 cases received from the Rajah's courts for disposal, viz. :-

1	Under section	436	Indian Penal Code.
5	,, ,,	379	ditto
3	,, ,,	497	ditto
1	,, ,,	395	ditto
2	,, ,,	426	ditto
1	,, ,,	323	ditto

The case under section 436 was dismissed for want of evidence.

Of the 5 cases under section 379 (all against inhabitants of British Tipperah, charged with theft of forest produce from Hill Tipperah), 1 was dismmised, 2 made over for trial to the Magistrate of Tipperah, who was in charge of the Political Agent's office during Mr. Power's absence, and 2 lately instituted were pending at the close of the year.*

The case under section 395 was also pending. There were 3 cases pending at the close of the year.

In the case under section 323 the defendantwas convicted and fined one rupee.

The remaining cases were either rejected, struck off, or referred to the District Magistrate of Tipperah, none of them, on enquiry, appearing to fall under schedule II annexed to the extradition Act.

32. In 5 cases sanction was given under section 9 of the Act for the prosecution of the defendants in British Tipperah courts.

No important cases were enquired into by the Political Agent during the year. A few complaints, however, of illegal detention of cattle, extortion, &c., were made by some British subjects against certain farmers of tolls on forest produce and grazing lands in Hill Tipperah, and redress obtained through the influence of the Political Agent.

33. There were 7 requisitions for arrest of absconding offenders.

1. Charge, theft, complied with.
2. Abduetion and illegal marriage complied with.
3. Kidnapping ditto ditto
4. Giving false evidence, aecused not found.
5. Murder ditto ditto.
6. Theft, complied with.
7. Murder, accused not found.

All the above were from the Magistrate of Sylhet, received through the Commissioner of the Dacca Division. There were no requisitions to this office from any of the districts of the Chittagong Division bordering on Hill Tipperah. Possibly they were sent to the Rajah direct.

There were two commissions to take evidence :—

1. From the Judge of Sylhet, returned unexecuted, owing to the absence of the Political Agent from head-quarters.

2. From moonsif of Amirgong through the Judge of Tipperah, executed.

BORDER DISPUTES.

34. I am happy to be able to state that from the reports made to this office during the year, there appear to have been very few disturbances on the boundary between Hill Tipperah and British territory, arising out of disputes regarding rights of pasturage in the hills, or tolls on forest produce demanded from ryots from British

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* Since disposed of.

territory, who have come into the hills for the purpose of collecting wood, bamboos, ot thatching grass for use in the plains; and none of them were of a serious nature. With a view to preventing disputes regarding the right of pasturage, the Rajah passed an Act which came into force last November; it is framed very much on the same plan as our Cattle-trespass Act. Eleven pounds were established at various places in the state, mostly on the borders near where there is pasturage land. The fines imposed during the last five months of the year amounted, I am informed, to Rs. 361-10. This is a commencement in the right direction, and I hope in time to hear that regular rules have been drawn up fixing the rates to be levied for the right of pasturing animals of the different classes in the hills, I believe these rules are under consideration.

35. As regards the collection of the tolls on forest produce, no change in the system has been made; I am informed that it was impossible, as the terms of the existing leases have not yet expired. A few cases of theft of forest prdcuce were instituted by some lessees of forest dues against certain ryots of British Tipperah. In two of these, convictions were obtained (since the close of the year), and fines inflicted; a few examples of this kind will, I expect, do much towards settling the question. The ryots in all these cases endeavour to set up a right to collect the forest produce without payment, derived from ancient custom; but in no case have they been able to establish it. However, the fault is not altogether on their side, the collectors cannot, as a rule, be depended on, and while they try to cheat the ryots into paying them more than is due, it is not to be wondered at that the latter do all in their power to evade payment altogether.

REVENUE AND FISCAL

36. I am happy to be able to report that matters connected with the collection of the rents from the ryots on the strip of land bordering on the hills and forming a large zemindari of itself, seem to be improving, yet much remains to be done. The revenue collections of the Rajah, both within the boundary of Hill Tipperah and in his zemindari in British territory, were generally let out in farm to the highest bidders. This not unfrequently furnished causes for disputes between the farmers and the ryots. Some complaints on the part of the lessees were made during the year against British subjects regarding attempts on the part of the latter to remove the produce of their fields held in Hill Tipperah without paying the rent due. In some of these a breach of the peace seemed to be threataned, and applications for prevention of the same were made to the magistrates of the neighbouring districts. In fact, nothing serious took place.

37. I am informed that during the year settlements have been made, as the former ijarahs expired, with the actual cultivators, and some mehals have been placed under khas management. The result has been a considerable increase in the collections, and a large amount of arrears has been paid off. The Rajah has also caused survey and measurement operations to be commenced in the southern part of his zemindari. I have not been informed how much of this work has been proceded with.

38. A budget system has lately been introduced; it would be premature to speak of its results, but I very much doubt if it will prove successful. Money affairs were, and, to a considerable extent, still are in the utmost confusion; notwithstanding the increased collections this year of land revenue, the cry is always want of cash. I believe a large sum was owing on account of the expenses connected with the marriage of the Rajah's son, only part of which has sonce been paid off. Moreover, there is the cost of the defence in the suit lately brought by the Rajah's nephew to obtain the Raj hanging over his head, and possibly money is being put by to meet it. However this may be, nothing is being spent on improvements of any kind, but I hear of hundreds being wasted on all kinds of nonsense.

TRADE

39. Unfortunately no statistics have been kept regarding the expoet of cotton, &c. The "Kapas Mehal" was leased out for Rs. 50,000, and the statements submitted by the farmers show that 40,511 maunds of cotton, and 12,541 maunds of "til" were exported during the year, exclusive of the quantity exported from the sub-division of Koilashur.

The revenue derived from tolls on forest produce during the year was Rs. 22,191-8-3.

During the year kheddah operations were carried on in different places in the uninhabited parts of the hills. The Rajah received as his share 17 elephants, the value of which is estimated at Rs. 20,000.

I have endeavoured to impress on the dewan the advisability of procuring some reliable statisties regarding the export of cotton, &c., and the profits from the rates levied on forest produce, and he has promised to do his best to collect information on this subject during the current year.

EDUCATION

40. There are two schools in the state; one at Agurtollah and the other at Koilashur. The school at Agurtollah is conducted on the same principles as Government zillah schools. There are two English teachers, one Bengali, and one Sanscrit. There are at present 79 scholars on the books; a considerable number are being taught English. Most of the boys are related to the Rajah's family, being sons of thakoors, and some are sons of talookdars, and others in the vicinity. The school used to be supported by the Rajah and was called the "Maharajah's school," but fees were taken from the scholars, and monthly deductions made from the salaries of amlahs by way of voluntary subscriptions to the maintenance of the school. The financial condition of the school was found to be in an unsatisfactory condition, and meetings were held to consider what should be done. The Rajah signified his intention to raise his subscription from Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 per mensem, and subscriptions were solicited from all the wealthier of the inhabitants. Notwithstanding this, it has been found necessary to reduce the salaries of the masters to bring the actual expenditure within the probable income.

41. The arrangement of classes in the school seems to me also unsatisfactory; one boy only forms the first class, the second is no larger, and the others are too small. When I examined the two head boys of the school, I found the boy in the second class quite as forward in some subjects, if not more so, than the boy in the first class. The head-master objects to make any change, though I pointed out to him that by making the classes larger, he would save trouble to the teachers, and create a spirit of competition which would be a good incentive to study. He seems afraid that if he put the second class boy into the first class, the boy now in the first class, would think himself degraded. However, I do not think this was the whole truth; I fancy exclusiveness had something to do with it. He has promised to do what he can to carry out my suggestions on the reassembling of the school after the vacation.

42. The school at Koilashur was opened in Aghran* 1282 T.E., the grant from the state being Rs. 15 per mensem.

There are now 46 students attending the school, of these 22 are Hindus, 16 Munipoorees, 6 Mussulmans, 1 Goorkha, and 1 Assamee; 6 of the boys learn English.

When the school was first opened, there was an erroneous impression that the schoolars were to be made converts to Christianity, at least, that was the excuse given; but in this case also, I believe, the true cause was exclusiveness and caste prejudice. I am happy to say the sub-divisional officer was able to remove this difficulty, and the school bids fair to flourish.

43. No steps of any kind have ever been taken to introduce any education among the hill people, and they do not appear to have any desire for it. As a means to an end, if they saw any change of improving their condition by doing so, it is possible some few might be induced to send their children to school.

EXCISE

44. The abkari rules and rugulations are in their infancy. Until only a short time ago this source of revenue to the state seems to have been almost totally neglected. One man allowed the monopoly of manufacture and

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* Corresponding with November 1872.

sale of native liquor, for which he paid Rs. 322 yearly to the state. There were no rules restricting private manufacture, or, if there were, they were practically uneless. Almost all the residents in and near Agurtollah prepared liquor for their own consumption, the licensed manufacturer used to find a sale for his stores among the hillmen coming to Agurtollah and others who were unable to distil for themselves. Thus the revenue derived was very much less than it should have been.

45. Under the excise rules lately introduced, there are in the state 42 shops licensed for manufacture and sale of spirituous liquor. These are licensed on the monthly tax system, the rates for each shop are from 8 to 12 annas per mensem, and the licensed manufacturers are restricted as to the quantity they distil, no one being allowed to distil from more than 2 seers of rice daily. The liquor is manufactured in the same manner as country spirit is made in the Government distilleries, except that a quantity of bamboo root is used in the preparation to increase the strength.

46. In the hills there is no supervision at all over the manufacture and use of intoxicating liquor and drugs. A kind of rice beer is prepared in almost every house in the hills. A great deal of it is used both for private consumption and in their religious ceremonies. The hillmen also prepare a kind of spirit from the root of the ''mooli' bamboo mixed with certain other vegetable ingredients.

47. During the year under report, about 7 beeghas of land near Agurtollah were under poppy cultivation. Sowing takes place in November, and the poppy is gathered in January and February. The yield was 5 seers 3¼ tollahs, the average yield being about 11 chittacks two tollahs per beegha. The cultivators received Rs. 15 per seer for labor; the right of sale of the opium was reserved by the state at the rate of Rs. 24 per seer. The revenue would thus be pnly about Rs. 45 on the whole manufacture; but this is only a commencement, the manufacture will in all probability increase.

48. No regular ganja cultivation has yet commenced, but individuals rear the plant in their own homesteads for private use. It is proposed to bring this under the abkari rules.

MUNICIPALITY

49. A municipality is said to have existed in 1873-74 in Agurtollah, but I found it existed in name only, in as much as the limits to which it extended were not defined, no rules had been drawn up, no chowkeedars employed, and no divisions of the town were recognized. The money nominally placed at the disposal of the committee was not forthcoming : in fact, the oveerseer had not received his salary for some months, and the balance due for some work done had been outstanding for a considerable time. The roads (if they may be called by the name), drains, and conservancy of the town are in a wretehed condition. As a member of the committee of which the dewan is now the chairman, I impressed on them the necessity of doing something towards keeping the place even tolerably clean, but want of funds paralyzed my efforts. Though Rs.3, 100 had been nominally placed at the disposal of the committe, and only Rs. 1,174-6 had actually been spent up to the end of the year, nothing was done; not a single workman was engaged, though the drains are choked with rank vegetation and rubbish, the roads getting more and more out of repair, and the earth work thrown up, and left underssed for two new roads, is being washed away by every fall of rain.

50. A municipal Act has recently been framed, but it only came into operation from the 1st of Baisaikh (about te 9th April. It contains a few sensible rules regarding sanitary matters (time will show if they are enforeed), and under it taxes are to be levied from the rate payers, assessed according to their circumstances, and the extent and value of the property proposed to be protected. The town has also been divided into eight wards, and a chowkeedar appointed. Nothing, however, has been done towards improvement of communications, and until after the rains it will not be possible to do much.

51. Matters in Agurtollah itself being allowed to remain in the wretched state they are, it is not to be expected that anything would be done towards opening up communications with other places. There is not a single road

of any kind of Agurtollah. For about three months in the year good sized boats can come up by the howrah Nuddi to Agurtollah, but during the remainder of the year they can only get to a place about five miles off by land, but two day's journey by river; there they must be unladen, and the goods sent up in small boats, for there is not even a road to this point, yet it would be of immense conveneience to all parties. During the rains (excepting in dry seasons), the journey to Comillah, about 35 or 40 miles off, can be done in a small boat, with not greater draught than a few inches, in about 12 hours, by forcing the boat over the flooded "dhan khets"; considering the state of the boats this is not a pleasant mode of travelling. At present I fear there is little chance of any improvement. There is no money available, and through retrenchments might easily be made under many items of expenditure, yet no one in authority seems sufficiently to appreciate the benefit which would undoubtedly accrue to all concerned by improvements in this direction, to take any real intetest in introducing reform.

MILITARY AND POLICE

52. The military force entertained in Hill Tipperah, at the close of the year, consisted of 253 of all ranks. It is divided into six companies, or "Braduries", as they are called. The sepoys are armed with the old smooth bore musket of the tower pattern of 1871. Their uniform and accoutrements have not been renewed for years. The following table will show the strength of each company :—

	Rank								Race					
Braduries	Major.	Captain.	Kumadan (Commander).	Subadar.	Jemadar.	Havildar.	Amuldar.	Bugler.	Sepoys.	Hindoos.	Mussulmans.	Goorkhas	Assamese.	Total.
First	1	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	10	14	...	...	...	14
Second	...	1	...	2	5	7	8	2	100	38	13	56	18	125
Third	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	25	11	17	...	...	28
Fourth	...	...	1	...	1	1	2	1	26	10	22	...	...	32
Fifth	...	...	...	1	1	3	1	...	35	6	35	...	...	41
Sixth	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	10	13	...	...	....	13
Total	1	2	1	4	9	13	14	3	206	92	87	56	18	253

53. Of this force 142 were actually on duty, and the remainder were what we may call the reserve not called out. There are at present six military posts garrisoned by this force; and seven thanas garriosoned party by the military and party by the civil police; and six outposts garrisoned by the civil police only.

54. As mentioned under the head of "Administration of Justice," a few rules have lately been laid down for the guidance of the police, in the performance of their duties. Diaries have been directed to be kept at each thana, and registers have been opened. One extraordinary provision in the rules is, that the police may take depositions on oath. It would be premature to speak at present of the working of these new rules, but, from the reports, I have received, I am disposed to think that considerable amendments and alterations will have to be made.

HOSPITAL

55 . This institution was opened by the Rajah (by whom it is entirely supported) in May 1873. Owing to the want of necessary articles of hospital furniture, only a few in-patients have been admitted during the year under review.

The attendance of out-door patients has been satisfactory. There were 3034 admissions. Dector Stork reports :—"The district was unhealthy during the greater part of the year; epidemic cholera broke out in the

town and adjacent villages and raged with much fury during the months of April and May 1873, causing a panic among the people, many of whom deserted their homes to escape the discase.'' The Rajah supplied the medicines, and Doctor Stork his services gratis.

ESTABLISHMENT

56. The establishment of the Political Agency remained the same as was reported last year.

I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the great assistance I have received from the English clerk, Baboo Aur Churn Nundi. He is a well informed, steady, and , above all trustworthy man.

The residence is a comfortable house, good of its kind. The walls are of bamboo matting (jhámp) which are not well calculated to keep out the hot air during the dry months, or the damp in the rains. It is, however, the best house of its kind I have seen in Bengal.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT
OF THE POLITICAL AGENCY, HILL TIPPERAH, FOR THE YEAR
1874-75

No. 101, dated Agurtollah, 9th July 1875.
From—Captain W.L. Samuells, Acting Political Agent, Hill Tipperah.
To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Political Department

I have the honour to forward herewith the Administration Report of the Political Agency, Hill Tipperah, for the year 1874-75.

The general report is written by my predecessor Captain Lillingston, from whom I took charge of this office on the 26th April last. At his request I have added a statistical supplement to the report, the information for which was kindly placed at my disposal by Baboo Nilmony Das, Dewan, to whom I am also much indebted for all the assistance he has given me since I have been here.

No. X, dated Agurtollah, 8th April 1875.
From—Captain E.G. Lillingston Acting Political Agent, Hill Tipperah.
To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Political Department.

I have the honor to submit my annual report on the administration of the State of Hill Tipperah for the year ending 31st March 1875.

2. The year under report has been a most uneventful one. The various Acts passed in the previous year by the Raja with a view to the better administration of his State, have been in force with fair results, but no now ones have been passed. Since my last annual report, I have had the pleasure to bring to the notice of Government the marked improvement in the jail system which has been brought about by the drawing up and enforcement of a set of rules for the guidance of the authorities in charge of the jails, and my attention has been greatly given of the authorities in charge of the jails, and my attention has been greatly given to the introduction by the Raja of further improvements in the same direction. A perfect understanding existed between the Raja and the Political Agent, and the former has shown his readiness to accept advice, and has on every occasion done his best to carry out any recommendations which I have considered it my duty to make to him.

3. Under the present conditions of the Raja's exchequer, it is very difficult to get him to introduce improvements of a costly nature, though many are most obviously necessary. Agurtollah is almost cut off from the rest of the world for want of land communication. That by water is only open in the rains. Within the state there are no roads at all, and only an apology for one in the town of Agurtollah itself. In order to visit the Sub-divisional head-quarters at Koilashur in the north of the state, it is necessary to make a long detour by the rivers through the Tipperah and Sylhet districts, the journey taking about 15 days ; whereas, if there were a road or even pathway over the hills from Agurtollah, it could be easily accomplished in four or five at the most. A road from Agurtollah towards Comillah to join the district road to the Sub-division of Brahmunberiah has been sureveyed this cold weather, but I fear want of money will prevent much progress being made with it for the present. Sanitary improvements about Agurtollah are very much needed ; the place is over-run with jungle, and after a little rain all the surrounding country becomes an unhealthy swamp; municipal matters are at a stand-still for want of cash ; education backward for the same reason. The salaries of the educational staff at Agurtollah had to be reduced in order to bring the expenses of the school within the expected income. The matter was brought to the notice of the Raja, and a larger State grant asked for, but unsuccessfully. There are several reasons for this want of means. The Raja has lately been put to considerable law expenses. There has been a long-standing dispute between the ryots and the landlords on the Rajas zemindaree in the southern part of the Tipperah district, where enormous balances are still due, and the income derived from the hills is very much below what it could be if only active and energetic measures were taken.

4. A great want, I am happy to say has lately been supplied. A new Sub-division further to the south of the State than Agurtollah was very much needed. Almost all the disputes between the Rajas subjects and the British ryots come form the south-western part of the State, and it is very far for complainants and their witnesses to

go all the way to Agurtollah to appear before the Courts there. Moreover, the fiscal administration of the southern part of the State required a responsible officer in that direction, and I am happy to report that the Raja has lately caused a new sub-division to be created, having its head-quarters at Odeypoor, a days journey due east of Comillah, and has appointed to the charge of it a late Government servant, a man well spoken of. It is too early yet to report on the result of this change ; but form all I have seen, I believe it will be eminently beneficial.

5. I have stated above that the hills are not made to yield the income to the State they should do, and for the following reasons I believe this to be the case :— At present there is little or no attempt made in the direction of forest conservation, yet I am persuaded, from what I have seen, that mahogany, sal and other valuable timber could be grown in the hills, and by proper measures being taken, the timber now there could be made most remunerative. The income at present derived from the cotton exported from the hills could be increased by a different system being introduced in the leasing out of the "Kapas Mehals". At present these mehals are put up to auction ; a few monied men have the bidding all to themselves ; no statisties are taken of the amount exported, and the manner in which the tolls on the produce are levied leaves room for any amount of extortion and peculation on the part of the toll-gatherers. Again, with a little management and greater firmness, the value of the forest produce brought down form the hills by the British ryots on the frortier, such as thatching grass, bamboos, and firewood, could be doubled. Up to the present time, the measures takne to enforce the payment of the tolls on such forest produce have been so weak that in many places the British ryots try to assert a prescriptive right to collect what they want in the hills free of tools or impost of any kind, and resist to their utmost all the endeavours made by the Rajas servants to collect his dues. Lastly, the enormous tract of perfectly uninhabited country all along the eastern boundary of the State points our a certain way of increasing the revenue by offering leases on advantageous terms to outsiders, and thus not only enriching the State, but possibly relieving the overpressure of population in other parts. I see no reason why Behar coolies, if cultivate these waste lands in the hills just as well as other lands in the plains; and, by the introduction of plough cultivation, it is probable their example might be followed by the hill tribes, who might be induced to give up their nomadic habits and settle down into permanent caltivators of the soil.

6. On many occasions I have conversed with the Raja on the above subjects, and he is quite intelligent enough to recognize the advantages which would accrue from more vigorous action on his part. Notwithstanding this, I found it very difficult to get him to take real active interest in the affairs of his State ; he is very apathetic and averse to any change. He has got into a groove, so to speak, and, as is common with natives, he is not willing to exert himself in any way. He hardly ever leaves his place, and spends most of his time in photography, oil-painting, &c., taking up this and that as an amusement for a time, and then throwing it aside as a child does a toy he has tired of. It would be a great thing if be could be induced to leave his residence at Agurtollah for a time now and then, and enlarge his mind by seeing other places ; could he be induced to take his proper place among the natives of India, and to interest himself in the affairs of the country, he would soon have considerable influence among the Hindus, as he is looked upon as one of the ancient line of Hindu Princes, and has undoubtedly good natural abilities.

7. The manner, too, in which he is bringing up the young Joobraj, his eldest son, who, if he lives, will succeed his father on the throne of Hill Tipperah, is very unsatisfactory. The young Prince hardly ever leaves the zenana, has never been out of Agurtollah, and his ideas of the outer world must be most narrow and confined to what he may pick up from reading. Much cannot be expected from such an heir to the crown of Hill Tipperah.

8. In such an uneventful year as that now under review, it is diffcult to find any leading events worthy of mention. However, I must not omit to speak of one event, which must be looked upon by the Raja as a very important one to himself, both in consequence of the honor done to him and of the perfectly new experiences

he went through. I allade to his visit to Dacca in August last, in obedience to an invitation received from the Viccroy and Governor-General to meet him there. The present Raja is the first of all the line of Princes of Hill Tipperah who has had the honor of an interview with Her Majestys representative in India. For this reason he is not likely to forget the occurrence which will be handed down to posterity as a most important event in the history of the family. On only one former occasion has the present Raja, I believe, ever left Agurtollah, and that was only for a short visit to Comillah. He had never seen anything worthy the name of a river, and of course had never seen a steamer. Everything he saw was perfectly new to him, and his sensations on finding himself carried along rapidly on the Megna River in the splendid barge drawn by the steamer. Stars of Dacca, generously placed at his disposal by Khajeh Abdool Gunny, C.S.I., of Dacca, were shown in an unmistakeable manner.

9. The only other event worthy of mention which has happened during the year was the trial of the suit brought by the Rajas nephew, Nobodeep Chunder, to recover possession of the zemindari of Roshonabad in Tipperah district, and by implication, the throne of Hill Tipperah. It will be remembered that on the death of the late Raja, Ishan Chander Manik, the present Raja, ascended the throne, asserting that his brother, Ishan Chunder, had, the day before his death, appointed him to be ''Joobraj'' his own son, Brojendro, then a minor, to be ''Burra Thakoor,'' and Nobodeep Chunder, his younger son, then also a minor, to be Kurta. The custom of the family regarding the effect of these appointments on the succession has already been reported on, so it is not necessary to refer again to it here. The right of the persent Raja to succeed to the throne was subsequently questioned by his half-brother, Nilkishen, who broght a suit to dispossess him, denying that Ishan Chunder had ever made any appointment of a ''Joobraj'', and claiming the right to succeed by seniority and consanguinity. He obtained a decree in the Court of first instance on all points ; but on appeal the High Court and the Privy Council decided that the appointment of the present Raja to be ''Joobraj by'' Ishan Chunder had been proved, that he was nearer related by blood to Ishan Chunder than Nilkishen, and reversed the decision of the Lower Court on these points, at the same time declaring that their decision would not be held to affect the rights of any other member of the family. Brojendro Chunder, who was stated to have been appointed ''Burra Thakoor'' at the same time as the present Raja was appointed ''Joobraj'', died, and then the present Raja appointed his own son to be ''Joobraj''. As soon as Nobodeep Chunder came of age, he institunted his suit, denying, as Kilkishen had done, the appointments by Ishan Chunder of the ''Joobraj'' and ''Burra Thakoor'', and claiming the right to succeed as being the only surviving legitimate son of the late Raja. Of course, under the circumtances, the claimant had the greatest difficulties to contend against in obtaining evidence ; and it is a significant fact taht every issue in the case (and many of them most important ones) was decided in his favour, except the one regarding the appointment of the present Raja to be ''Joobraj'', and this was decided in favour of the Raja only on the ground that no new evidence had been produced by the claimant on which the Judge could decide against the finding on this point by the High Court and the Privy Council in Nilkishens case.

10. The Political Agent resided continuously at Agurtollah from the commencement of the year under report till the 2nd August, when he went to Dacca to present the Raja to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General ; and after returning to Agurtollah he was permitted to reside for the remainder of the rains at Comillah, where almost all the work connected with the fiscal administration of the hills is carried on, and where he was employed as a Magistrate of the 1st grade to assist the Magistrate of the district during the time that, owing to the number of officers engaged on famine duties, the sudder station was without a Joint Magistrate. While thus employed, having had placed under him most of the thanas within the Rajas zemindaree, he was enabled to obtain information on many points connected with the State, which it would have been impossible for him to have become acquainted with at Agurtollah. Comillah being only 4 miles from the borders of Hill Tipperah, and only a nights journey by boat in the rains from Agurtollah, he was able to keep himself throughly well

acquainted with all that was going on, and made several trips up to his head-quarters during the few months he resided at Comillah. While thus employed, he invariably considered his duties as Political Agent of the first importance, taking up only such magisterial work as would not interfere with them in any way.

11. During December 1874 and the early part of January 1875, I was employed in taking the evidence, on commission, of the Raja and the ladies of his family, in the case mentioned in paragraph 9 above, and on the 9th January I started by boat to proceed to Koilashur, the head-quarters of the subdivision, in the northern part of the State, there to see the working of the Courts, the general administration of the sub-divison, and to inquire into the circumstances of the country and its inhabitants. Returning to head-quarters after little more than a month's absence, I obtained short leave to visit Calcutta on business. On my return the weather became so unusually unsettled and prematurely hot that I did not go out in the interior again, there being nothing of importance to take me out. My cold-weather tour was thus much shortened, chiefly owing to my having been detained more than a month by the commission issued to me from the District Judges Court.

12. Koilashur is a very small, unpretending village, prettily situated at the foot of the lower range of hills. The Deputy Superintendent, Baboo Durga Prosad Gupta, is an inteligent and painstaking officer. I inspected his registers and found them in order. A new jail was in the course of erection, and the rules lately introduced for the guidance of the jail officers at Agurtollah are to be enforced at Koilashur. There is a school well attended, and the master appeared to take pains with his pupils ; but as there is only one master for the English and Vernacular Departments, it seemed to me that he could not alone do his duty by all the scholars, and I suggested to the Raja the advisability of allowing a second master or a pundit. A few months ago, a dispensary was opened at Koilashur, which seems to be appreciated. The Native Doctor told me that the hillmen were beginning to take to vaccination, and came to him in considerable numbers. On the whole, I was very well satisfied with all I saw at the sub-division.

13. Here, as elsewhere, absence of land communication is a great drawback. Laying, as Koilashur does, just at the point where the hill tribes to the east could, if so inclined, cross over the boundary to raid in Sylhet, it seems very necessary that communication should be easy and rapid, that a strong guard, with outposts, were selected by my predecessor, Mr. Power, and the Raja expressed his willingness to establish them, if the Government approved of the suggestions made by that officer. The matter is still in abey eyance.

14. Regarding the administration of justice by the Rajas Courts, there is only one case which has come to my notice requiring mention. I much fear it was intended that this case should be hushed up. It was brought to my notice while passing through Comillah on my return from my coldweather tour, and I at once took measures to counteract the evil influences which I suspected were at work. It appeared that a man named Punchanund Mitter, who was employed as a minstrel by the Raja, and had obtained considerable influence in the Rajbaree, had in his service a Tipperah woman. This woman was missing one day, and search was made for her all over the place, and especially in a tank known as Alla-Hazaris, as it was suspected that she had committed suicide owing to having been ill-treated by her mistress, the wife of the said Punchanund. No trace of her could be discovered. But strange to say, the day following, her body was found floating in the same tank which had been so carefully searched the day before. The Magistrate and the Police commenced an inquiry, and evidence was found raising a strong suspicion that the woman had met with foul play at the hands of ther mistress. So soon as this evidence was found, Punchanund Mitter petitioned the Raja, and the case was withdrawn by his orders from the Magistrate, and nothing more was done for nearly two months, when I came to hear of the case. I went to the Magistrates Office, and at last discovered an entry regarding this case in a register which had been kept back from me for some time. I then called for the record, which was given to me at the Rajbaree that evening. In the record there was a very suspicious looking order, purporting to have been passed by the Raja some month and a half before, returning the papers to the Magistrate for further inquiry ;

but the newness of the writing, the different color of the ink, and the countenances of those I questioned about it, made me believe that the order had been passed only when it was found that I had discovered the case. However, I addressed the Raja, and requested that the case might be at once gone into, and it was eventally made over to the Dewan for disposal, who, I am happy to say, went into it very carefully, and a primd facie charge was made out against the mistress of having committed culpable homicide not amounting to murder, and against Punchanund and four of his servants of having caused evidence to disappear. They have been called on for their defence ; the finale of the case has not yet been reported to me.

15. The only case of importance tried by me under Section 11, Act XI of 1872, was one in which a number of British subjects, residents of Sylhet, attacked the lessee of one of the Bunkur mehals when he came, at their invitation, to collect the tolls on forest produce from them. They gave him a very severe beating, breaking his little finger, and so injuring him that he was some weeks confined to his bed. After a long and protracted trial, caused by the great distance the parties and their witnesses had to travel, nine of the ringleaders were convicted, imprisoned at Agurtollah, and fined.

16. Regarding this matter, things are in much the same state as before. The Rajas Courts try british subjects convicted of offences committed in Hill Tipperah and arrested there. Cases where British subjects committing offences in Hill Tipperah are arrested in British territory on warrants issued by the Political Agent, are tired by that officer. The rules notified in the Calcutta Guzette No. 11, dated the 17th March 1875, passed by the Government of India do not seem to me to make any alteration in the former state of things ; but as I am inclined to think that it was intended that the Rajas Courts should, as a general rule, try the latter class of cases, I made a reference regarding them, and one or two minor points connected with them, to which a reply has not yet been reveived. The following statement will show the work done by the Political Agent under Sections 11 to 13 of the Extradition Act during the year under report :—

Nature of offence	1 Number of cases pending at close of last year.	2 Number of cases instituted during the year.	3 Total for disposal.	4 Punishment inflicted.	5 Acquitted or disinssed or otherwise disposed of.	6 Total disposed of	7 Pending at close of year.
Section 395, Indian Penal Code	1	.....	1	.....	1	1	.....
„ 325 „ „ „	.....	1	1	1	.....	1	.....
„ 379 „ „ „	2	23	25	2	13	15	10
„ 366 „ „ „	.....	2	2	.....	2	2	.....
„ 384 „ „ „	.....	1	1	.....	1	1	.....
„ 323 „ „ „	.....	3	3	.....	3	3	.....
Total ..	3	30	33	2	20	23	10

Of the 20 cases entered in column 5, six out of 13 under Section 379 were struck off on default, and the remaining seven dismissed for want of evidence to support the charge. The two cases under Section 366 were also dismissed, there being no evidence whatever, as well as the one under Section 395 for default. The case under Section 384 was also dismissed for want of evidence. Of the three cases under Section 323 one was compounded out of Court, and the other two dismissed for want of evidence to support the charge. It was found, however, that there was a likelihood of abreach of the peace in consequence of the ill-feeling existing between the parties with regard to certain property in Hill Tipperah, and the Raja was therefore requested to adjust the right and settle the dispute.

All the cases under Section 379 were complaints regarding the removal of forest produce without payment of tolls, and almost all were instituted on behalf of Mr. Larminie, farmer of forest dues of Bukshanuggur in Hill Tipperah, against ryots of pergunnahs Lohogurh, Gunga Mundul, and Meherkool in the district of Tipperah,

for theft of forest produce. These ryots have in several instances claimed a prescriptive right to collect forest produce in Hill Tipperah without payment of tolls, and this has caused considerable difficulty in finding convictions. Notices are, however, now being issued by the Magistrate of Tipperah forbidding the ryots to go into the hills for the purpose of collecting forest produce without payment of the usual tolls. This will possibly remove the difficulty.

In all the ten cases now pending, warrants have been issued for the arrest of the accused through the Magistrate of Tipperah, which have not yet been returned.

In three cases sanction was given under Section 9 of Act XI of 1872 for the prosecution of the defendants in the Courts in British territory.

There were several requisitions received during the year from district officers in British territory regarding service of summons on witnesses, and arrest of absconding offienders and eseaped prisoners, and the Raja did all he could to comply with them.

There were four commissions received by the Political Agent through the Judge of Tipperah, of which three were returned executed and one unexecuted.

17. During the latter part of the year, my attention has been much engaged in endeavouring to discover and bring to trial parties evading the Arms Act by making stores for the deposit of arms and ammunition in Hill Tipperah close to the British frontier, and then passing the same over the frontier as opportunities offered, and retailing them to British ryots, or selling them to the British ryots within Hill Tipperah. One case was brought to my notice which was discovered by the Magistrate of Tipperah on private information given him. In this case, an unlicensed shop, where arms and ammunition were sold, was found in a British village close to the frontier, and the Deputy Magistrate, who investigated the matter, was informed that there were stores within Hill Tipperah. Search was made, but evidently (if the stores existed) previous notice had been given, and all evidence had been got out of the way. From the above case, and on other grounds, I am inclined to think that some sort of smuggling in arms is going on along the frontier, and at my request the Raja promised to institute a sort of frontier preventive service. The orders to be given them are to patorl frequently, not making any one arrest and so discovering their object, but making private inquiries and collecting evidence, and then, when all is ready, to make a swoop down on as many such stores as possible. The preventive force was recommended not long ago, and up to the present time I have received no reports of their proceedings ; but I hope this may be successful, that is to say, if my suspicion as to the existence of this stores be correct. As to traffic in arms through Hill Tipperah to the tribes beyond the eastern frontier, I do not believe in the possibility of any, unless it be in the south into the hill tracts of Chittagong. The Raja is very jealous of any traffic in arms in his territory, and, for his own sake, is anxious to put any such down with a strong hand.

18. Another matter which has been attracting my attention is the best measures to be taken by the Raja for protecting and enforeing his right to levy tolls on forest produce brought down form the hills by British subjects on the frontier, and payment for the use of grazing lands in the hills. The Rajas right to the tolls has for a long time been very weakly insisted on, and the system of pounds on the frontier has not been so successful as it was expected to be. I have therefore advised the Raja to increase the number of his ghats for collecting the tolls, and to have a regular staff of inspectors to travel along the frontier and look after the safety of the ghats, and also to prevent extortion and embezzlement by the Rajas officers. Notifications and lists of tolls to be levied have been prepared, and are to be proclaimed by beat of drum in the various markets and large villages along the frontier in Britiswh terriroty at the Rajas expense. After this has been done, the villagers will have no excuse, and will render themselves liable to punishment for theft and criminal trespass if they remove forest produce from the hills without payment of the tolls. I believe that the larger amount which will be thus collected as tolls will more than make up in a very short time for any extra expense that may be incurred.

19. Although the following is a matter connected with the zemindari in the Tipperah district, and in no way connected with the Political Agency, yet as it nearly concerns the State, and as I have given it some attention with the object of affording the Raja any advice in my power, I may be permitted to say a few words on it. I refer to the disputes existing between the British ryots and the ijaradars under the Raja in the south-eastern part of the Tipperah district. It is not difficult to find out the original cause of these disputes, but there are other minor causes arising more

or less from the original one. The original cause was the mistaken policy of putting up the farms to public auction, and allowing men of straw to bid them up to fabulous figures. Then came the attempts of the ijaradars to collect enhanced rents from the ryots, and the former soon found that the papers in their possession regarding the various holdings were so much waste paper, as they did not disclose the actual state of the farms. The former ijaradars had compronised in many instances with the ryots, taking a little more from them than the rent due for the land acknowledged by them to be in their possession, and the ryots verbally agreeing to pay this, in consideration of the ijaradar not making too close investigation into the actual quantity of land cultivated. The new ijaradars found it impossible to discover the actual maount which had been formerly paid by the ryots, and the latter saw that all they had to do was to decline to give more than they chose. From bad management, want of documents, and each party wishing to over-ride the other, confusion and chaos came. The ryots combined not to pay rents at all to the ijaradars, and deposited them in the Civil Court. The ijaradars had no documents to back their claims with, and were unwilling to take the smaller sums deposited. In order to meet this state of things, some of the farms were taken under "khas" management and the middlemen turned adrift. These, to revenge themselves, stirred up the ryots to resist the Raja's servants, and the confusion became worse. The Dewan, Baboo Nilmony Dass, was sent down to this part to see if he could settle matters. He has reported to me that, with the exception of certain villages, he has amicably settled the dispute, has taken some of the farms under "khas" management, and was able in 15 days to collect Rs. 60,000 of arrears. This is all very well, but I am persuaded that nothing but a proper survey and measurement of the lands in that part which is resisted by ryots, and a new and clear settlement with the cultivators and farmers will put a permanent stop to the dispute.

20. Since I commenced drafting this report, I have received orders to proceed to Hazareebagh to take up the duties of Superintendent of the Central Jail and European Penitentiary. The various statistical reports cannot be prepared in time for me to include them in this report. I must therefore leave them to be added by my successor. I have drawn out a statement for the guidance of the Dewan in submitting a report to the Political Agent on every topic connected with the administration.

21. In conclusion, I beg here to record my thanks for the assistance I have invariably received from Baboo Nilmoney Dass, the Raja's Dewan, and my sense of the valuable nature of the services he has rendered to the State by his energy, industry and good judgement, since I became connected with it. He has laboured hard under very adverse circumstances. The Raja's Agent in Comillah, Mr. Campbell, died very suddenly in August last, and since then the Dewan has been carrying on the work both regarding the hills and the zemindari, and has been, I believe, successful to a certain extent in creating a better feeling between the ryots in the south and their farmers. I am inclined to think that the Dewan is too sanguine as to the permanent results of the measures he has taken there, but there is no doubt that he has been to a certain extent successful. The defence of the claim set up by the Rajas nephew also threw a great deal of work on the Dewans shoulders, but by energy and industry he was able to cope with it.

A Statistical Supplement to the Annual Administration Report of the Political Agency, Hill Tipperah, for the year 1874-75.

CENSUS.

Tabular Statement of the population of the Hills for the year 1874-75.

Tribes	Number of families taxed.	Number of families exempted from payment of tax	Total number of families.	Total number of persons.
Tipperahs	3,468	989	4,457	26,632
Jamatyas	545	....	545	3,000
Nowatyas	365	25	390	2,144
Riangs	432	16	448	2,435
Hallams	552	424	976	5,577
Kookees	26	460	486	2,041
Total	5,388	1,914	7,302	41,829

Tabular Statement of the population of the Plains.

Caste	Number of houses.	Total number of persons.
Hindus	652	4,339
Mussulmans	1,754	14,228
Tipperahs	112	516
Munipoorees	1,744	7,045
Christians	26	112
Other denominations	92	479
Add population of Koilashur Sub-division	....	5,694*
Total	4,371	32,413

It was mentioned in last years annual report that a special agency was being employed to test the lists of familes which are annually submitted by the headmen of párás in the hills, and that by the same agency a regular census of the people would be taken, if possible. This scheme, however, has proved a failure. Before the work had apparently gone very far, the men engaged in it fell sick, and it was abandoned. They, however, succeeded in enumerating 1,501 familes which aggregated 8,126 souls. On this it has been assumed that the average number per family is $5\frac{1}{2}$, which, being multiplied by the number of families borne on the lists of headmen of paras as (1) paying tax, and (2) exempt from tax, gives the figures entered in the above statement. Within a portion of the Oodeypoor Sub-division, the taking of a census amongst the hill tribes was entrusted to the police officers of the Sub-rung Mug-rum thana, and I regret to say that all they did was to cause the flight of about 100 families of Riangs, the wildest of the Tipperah tribes. I am myself opposed to any systematic census of the hill tribes, and have no intention of advocating a repetition of the experiment. The Sirdar's lists must serve as the basis of our estimate of the hill population for some time to come. The Political Agent in his cold-weather tour ought to have many opportunities of taking count in a quiet sort of way. A distribution of beads and other ornaments can be generally effectively employed as a means of bringing the old and young of both sexes to the front, when they may be asked to group themselves according to families, on the plea of its facilitating distribution. A very accurate consus may then be made without the people themselves being aware of anything of the sort having been done.*Within the strip of land bordering on the hills, and which has been distinguished in former reports as the plains of Hill Tipperah, the inhabitants lead a settled life, and in the social scale are on a par with the people of the plains in the neighbouring British districts. There were, therefore, fewer diffculties to contend with in this part, and the result may be taken as tolerably accurate. It, however, fails to include certain villages, chiefly inhabited by Mahomedans, where opposition was made; but next year measures will be taken to include the population of those villages, whether the people like it or not.

This method is, of course, only intended to operate in a few selected homogeneous groups of villages for the purpose of obtaining a fairly accurate basis on which to estimate the proportion of the sexes and the average number of members in a family, the general computation as to the number of families in a tribe being based on the lists submitted by headmen of párás. The return would still be only an approximate one, but nearer the truth than the statement above submitted.

In comparing the statement of the hill population for 1874-75 with the revised statement for 1873-74, I find that there is a decrease in the former of 37 in the total number of families taxed, but an increase of 760 in the total number of families taxed and untaxed. This is partly accounted for by no figures being given in 1873-74 for the number of Kookee families untaxed, whilst the return for 1874-75 gives that information, and places

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Details not furnished by the Sub-Divisional Officer of Eoilashur.

the number at 460. I have directed that in future, when the figures given by a Sirdar of a para do not agree with those given by him in the former year, that he should be made to account for the increase or decrease, as the case may be. In this way, information would be obtained of any large or sudden migrations that may have taken place, and of the influences which have worked to induce it; and to facilitate observations of this kind, I have divided the State into convenient geographical divisions, and prepared a map on which I hope in my next report to show the localities occupied by each tribe, of which at present I can obtain no information. According to the statements above given, the population of the hill tribes is estimated at 41;829, and of the people in the plains at 32,413, — total populatioin 74,242, or in round number about 75,000.

Military Arrangements

Statement showing the number of rank on the roster of each bradury, or Company, with the number belonging to each, and rates of pay.

	Rank									Race					
Bradury	Major (pay Rs. 50)	Captain (pay Rs. 15)	Kamedan (pay Rs 20)	Subadar (pay Rs 20)	Jemadar (pay Rs. 5, 10. 12, 18)	Havildar (pay Rs. 8, 10)	Amuldar (pay Rs. 6, 7)	Begular (pay Rs. 5, 7, 8)	Sepoy (pay Rs. 5, 6)	Bengali	Mahomedan	Goorkha	Desali or up-country men	Assamese	Tipperah and Munipoorees	Total
First	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	11	...	...	11
Second	...	1	...	2	5	7	8	3	126	8	17	66	45	10	6	152
Third	...	1	...	..	...	1	1	...	25	...	17	...	11	...	...	23
Fourth	...	...	1	...	1	1	2	1	26	7	20	...	5	...	...	32
Fifth	...	...	...	1	1	3	1	...	35	...	39	...	...	...	2	41
Sixth	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	10	...	3	...	10	...	...	13

The above statement shows the numerical strength of the military force which, since 1872, has been dwindling away by degrees, leaving now a very sorry remnant. In fact, there is no force existing now which is fit to be brought into the field should any disturbances arise on the frontier. There are eight military outposts, which are held by four officers, 11 non-commissioned officers, and 111 sepoys; but these men are more or less always on guard, and would, therefore, if available in a campaign, be no better than a rabble. At head-quarters there are at present 18 file that attend parade, but half of these are in the above statement in the effective list, are only called out when required for service, and for which, of course, they would be about as fit as the rawest recruits. In fact, there is no one belonging to the State who takes the smallest interest in them, and the consequence is that those men who take to soldiering for the pride and love of the thing, such as the Goorkhas, won't stay in the Raja's service, and the few good men who remain are disgusted and unlikely to remain much longer unless there is soon a change for the better. They have now fresh cause for complaint, in that they have been without pay for the last two months. The senior officer of the force has lately been celebrating the marriage of his eldest son, which has probably something to do with this last grievance; but the matter is engaging my attention at present, and I shall do what I can to have things put straight. The question of frontier defence has been separately discussed and is still pending; but in the meantime, before the Raja's army entirely dissolves itself, I think that some distinct under-standing ougth to be come to with the Raja as to the strength of the military force he is expected to maintain, distinguishing between the number required to garrison outposts and for operation in the field.

Police

Statement showing the rank, number, and pay of the Civil Police

	No.
Darogah (pay Rs. 20)	3
Naib Darogah (pay Rs 15)	2
Mohurrir (pay Rs. 10 to 8)	2
Hazari (pay Rs. 10)	1
Jemadar (pay Rs. 8 to 6)	5
Duffadar (pay Rs. 5)	3
Burkundaz (pay Rs. 6, 5 and 4)	S6

There are five thannas and eight outposts held by the civil police. I have not been furnished with any statistics to show the working of the police force, and therefore have no means of judging of their efficiency. Under this head, I might mention what has been done since the date of Captain Lillingston's report in the matter of the suspected illicit trade in arms and ammunition. The Raja reported to me that, after a strict inquiry, he had been unable to discover its existence. However, to mark his disapproval of such practices, and his desire to detect offenders, he has offered rewards to informers and apprehenders, and copies of a proclamation to that effect were sent by me to the neighbouring British districts on the 26th May, with instructions to informers to communicate information secretly to the Political Agent or the Dewan. The Raja has also issued strict injunctions to his police to be on the look-out for smuggling of this kind, and as they are to participate in the rewards to be awarded on conviction, they will have some inducement to bring to light any cases that come to their knowledge.

I therefore think that in this matter the Raja has done all that he could, and all that was necessary. As yet no information has been communicated, and no cases have been detected.

Criminal Justice

Statement of criminal cases (original) for the year 1874–75

Description of Crime	Number of cases pending at commencement of year	Number of cases instituted during year	Total for disposal	Punishment inflicted	Acquitted, discharged, dismissed or otherwise disposed of.	Total disposed of	Pending at close of year
Serious offences							
Against persons	3	38	41	16	19	35	6
Against property	4	77	81	41	38	79	2
Petty offences							
Against persons	4	194	198	83	109	192	6
Against property	7	75	82	24	55	79	3
Miscellaneous	4	105	109	53	48	101	8
Total	22	489	511	217	269	486	25

Statement showing the result of appeal in criminal cases for the year 1874-75

Cases pending at commencement of year	3
Cases instituted during the year	37
Total for disposal	40
Judgment of Lower Court confirmed	7
Ditto Ditto reversed	27
Total disposed of	34
Pending at close of year	6

These returns certainly show that the administration of justice is improving. There has been a considerable increase in the number of cases instituted, which is attributed to the increased confidence of the people in the decisions of the Courts. As compared with the returns of 1872-73, the increase in the number of new cases instituted in 1873-74 was 15.3 per cent., but in 1874-75 it rose to 35.9 per cent.

The following comparative statement shows that the work is disposed of now much quicker than it used to be, but the percentage of acquittals is still large. I am afraid the Magistrates stick too closely to the maxim "When in doubt, acquit" :-

	1872-73	1873-74	1874-75
Number of cases dealt with	518	516	511
Percentage convicted	26.2	31.5	42.6
Ditto acquitted	55.5	64.0	52.6
Ditto pending at close of year	18.3	4.5	4.8
Ditto appealed	19.1	11.3	17.0

I regret that the administration of justice should have been marred by the case of Punchanund Mitter, referred to by Captain Lillingston. As regards this unfortunate case, I may add that Punchanund Mitter and his mistress never put foot within the jail, but on conviction were released on bail pending an appeal to the Raja. Two months have since elapsed, and the Raja, before whom the appeal case is pending, has not yet decided it. This unjustifiable delay tends to confirm Captain Lillingston's suspicions that the Raja withdrew the case from the Magistrate with the intention of hushing it up and stopping all further proceedings. Within the last month, I have communicated thrice with the Raja on the subject; but although a fortnight ago he told me that four or five days more would settle it, and pleaded the heat of the weather as an excuse for previous delay, no decision has yet been come to.

Native British subjects were concerned as plaintiffs or defendants in 8.02 per cent. of the criminal cases which came before the Courts during the year. The following statements furnish the particulars :—

Statement showing the number of cases in which Native British subjects were concerned either as Plaintiffs or as DEFENDANTS.

OFFENCE	British Subjects Plaintiffs How Disposed of.					Brithsh Subjects Defendants How Disposed of.				
	Number of cases	Convicted	Acquitted or discharged	Struck off for default	Compromised	Number of cases	Convicted	Acquitted or discharged	Pending at close of year	Total number of cases
Assault	6	2	2	1	1	3	1	2	...	9
Adultery	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Criminal breach of trust	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cheating	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
Kidnapping	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
Perjury	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1
Offence affecting marriage	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Taking bribe	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1
Theft	5	...	5	...	...	2	1	...	1	7
Using criminal force	2	1	1	...	...	4	3	...	1	6
House-trespass	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
Wrongful confinement	7	3	3	1	...	1	1	...	...	8
Total	26	9	13	3	1	15	8	5	2	41

CIVIL JUSTICE

As compared with the last two years, there has been a great falling off in the number of cases instituted; but the Courts continue to work more satisfactorily, and show a very much smaller number of pending cases on their files. These results are shown by the subjointed comparative statement :

	1872-73	1873-74	1874-75
Pending at commencement of the year	372	123	82
Instituted during the year	229	316	194
Total	601	439	276

The decrease in the number of new cases is accounted for by the fact that, as judgement-debtors can so easily avoid processes of execution against the person by going into British territory, suitors have now found out that it entails a simple waste of time and money to sue a man unless he is possessed of some immoveable property within the State which is transferable by sale, and this few possess.

The subjoined table shows the work of the Civil Courts during the year :

Statement of civil suits in the Courts of Original Jurisdiction.

Pending at commencement of year	82
Instituted during the year	194
Total for disposal	276
Rejected or dismissed for default	36
Withdrawn with leave or compromised	17
Decreed on confessionor ex parte	56

Judgment for plaintiff in whole or part		68
Judgment for defendant		51
Total disposed of		228
Pending at close of year		48
	Total	1,056

Statement showing the result of appeals in civil suits

Remaining from last year		6
Instituted during the year		4
Total for disposal		50
Judgment of Lower Court confirmed		15
Ditto ditto modified		3
Ditto ditto reversed		11
Suits remanded		1
Total disposed of		30
Pending at close of year		20
	Total	140

JAILS

The following are the only figures of importance which the jail returns supply :

Augurtollah Jail

Remaining on 31st March 1874		5
Persons admitted during the year		61
Released during the year		53
Average daily number		5½
Died		1
Number of admissions into hospital		18
Remaining on 31st March 1875		12
	Total	155½

No returns have been furnished by the officer in charge of the Koilashur Jail.

DISPENSARIE :

Up to September the dispensary at Augurtollah was under the management of Dr. Stork, who then availed himself of leave, and, without rejoining, resigned his appointment under the Raja and returned to the charge of the civil station of Comillah. Since his departure, Native Doctor Haidar Ali has been in charge, assisted by Baboo Chunder Kanth Das. This dispensary is entirely supported by the Raja, and appears to be popular.

The following are the statistics of the dispensary for the past year :

Remaining at the close of last year	71
Admissions during the year	3,251
Total number treated	3,322
Number cured	3,293
Number died	12
Remaining at the close of the year	17

The above figures refer to out-door patients only, of which class the total number treated was 3,322, against 3,031 during the preceding year.

The following statement shows the number of persons treated according castes :

Europeans	15	Tipperahs	1,017
Bengalees	928	Kookees	22
Mussulmans	912	Native Christians	21

OTHER CASTES 407.

Thre were 13 in-door patients, against five of the preceeding year, viz., Bengalee one, Mussulmans seven, and Tipperahs five; and out of that number, ten were cured, and three died.

I am glad to observe from the returns that during the period that Native Doctor Haider Ali has been in charge, thre has been no falling off in the number of persons treated, and that the figures contrast favorably with those for the period during which Dr. Stork was in charge.

At Koilashur there is a dispensary, towards which the Raja contributes Rs. 15 per mensem, and in addition to this, subscriptions are contributed locally. There is a Native Doctor in charge on a monthly salary of Rs. 20. The number of out-door patients treated during the year was 300, of which number 219 were cured, and 76 absented themselves before being cured, and five remained at the end of the year.

The Raja is endeavouring to obtain the services of a properly qualified medical officer to serve him as his private physician, and to exercise general control over dispensaries and matters of sanitation.

MUNICIPALTY

In Augurtollah a municipality exists in name only and no more. A house assessment was at one time made under the Rajas Municipal Act, but no taxes, I believe, are ever realized.*

A contribution from the Raja of Rs. 2,000 was promised, but only Rs. 360-6 was obtained, and is said to have been expended on roads. The only matter in which the municipality seem to have stirred themselves to some purpose during the year has been in assessing the Political Agent's bungalow, and thereby obtaining from Government an allowance of Rupees 65 on that account. It is my intentioin to advocate that this sham institution be abolished. In a place like this, where the Raja's word is law, and where all dread his power in a manner almost slavish, it is absurd to suppose that any institution can flourish which is based on a system of self-government. The population of Agurtollah almost entirely consists of the Rajas relatives and retainers, people connected with the local courts and offices, and a few shopkeepers. All that Agurtollah, therefore, wants is a committee to look after the drainage and conservancy, and the construction and repair of pathways and roads. Therefore, in place of the so-called municipality, I would advocate a town committee partaking of the character of a cantonment committee, of which the Raja should be president, the members of the committee acting more as a consultative body, and who should, therefore, be specially qualified to advise and assist him in matters concerning the public health, safety, and convenience. With this object I should recommend as members the Chief Medical Officer, the Supervisor of Public Works, and the Dewan or Chief Magistrate, the latter being also secretary, and the Political Agent an ex-officio member. Each member would be responsible for certain duties, and at the meeting of the committee would propose any measures he deemed requisite. For such of the proposed measures as the Political Agent approved of, the members would have his support. It would rest with the Raja, as president, to sanction such as he thought fit and to grant funds for the purpose.

I have since learnt that Rs 354 was realized last year out of a total assessment of Rs 852. I give the other figures for what they are worth. Total expenditure Rs 992.6; total inceme, including the Raja's grant, Rs 722.26; deneit Rs 270.3.G.

SCHOOLS

In the Agurtollah school there are 72 boys on the roll, consisting of 33 sons of Thakoors, eight Munipoorees, and 20 Hindoos, three Mussulmans, and eight Deshwalis. The daily average attendance was 41. The former income of the school, which was obtained partly by a grant from the Raja and partly by private subscriptions, was insufficient to meet the expenses, and the consequence was that the committee were obliged to reduce the salaries of the teachers. Had this state of things been allowed to continue, the school would probably have collapsed; but the Raja has now provided an annual grant of Rs. 1,350 for the school, so that the committee have been able to raise the salaries of the masters to what they were before, and in other respects to place the school exactly on the same footing as it formerly stood. In this school no fees are paid by the students.

The Koilashur school has 31 boys on the roll, consisting of 11 Hindoos, seven Mussulmans, 10 Munipoorees, and three Goorkhas; of this number, 10 boys learn English and Bengalee, and the rest Bengalee only. The school is supported by a contribution from the State of Rupees 180 per annum, which only serves for the payment of the schoolmasters salary. The other expenses are met by what is obtained on account of schooling fees.

FISCAL

I am indebted to the Dewan for having, at my request, furnished me with a complete statement of the revenue derived during the year from land and other sources. The total income of Hill Tipperah for 1874-75 was Rs. 1,86,932, which, after deducting a decrease of Rs. 1,749.12 under four heads, gives a net increase of Rupees 23,585 over the revenue of the preceding year.

Statement of Revenue derived from land and other sources for the year 1874-75.

Sources of Revenue.	Annual income			As compared with 1873-74					
				Increase.			Decrease		
	Rs.	A.	P	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
1. Land revenue from lands in the plains	38,789	0	11	139	0	11	.....		
2. Family tax in the hills.	24,217	0	0	.....			450	0	0
3. Doewar peosuxw	28,395	12	0	3,067	14	0	.....		
3½ Fenny Ghat (10 anna share)	12,000	0	0	10,000	0	0	.....		
4. Cotton mehal (including til)	47,180	14	0	1,486	0	0	.....		
5. Elephants (share of the State)	24,000	0	0	5,984	0	0	.....		
6. Tota mehal	23	6	0	.....			.....		
7. Gurjan "	30	13	0	.....			.....		
8. Buffalo "	122	3	0	.....			65	0	0
9. Khutgari "	192	5	0	37	3	0	.....		
10. Sharshu "	64	13	0	.....			.....		
11. Chona Sikar "	67	0	0	.....			.....		
12. Charki "	27	10	0	.....			.....		
13. Kajai "	125	0	0	.....			.....		
14. Markets "	1,046	7	3	.....			.....		
15. Law and Justice, fines, &c.	2,044	4	0	.....			170	0	0
16. Court fees	2,393	10	0	.....			1,064	12	0
17. Process fee	358	4	0	358	4	0	.....		
18. Commission fees	1,106	2	0	1,106	2	0	.....		
19. Cattle pounds	1,041	0	9	679	6	9	.....		
20 Abkaree	970	8	0	343	10	0	.....		
21. Nuzzur or tribute	2,736	0	0	2,133	0	0	.....		
	Total 1,86,932		0	1 25,334		8	8 1,749		12

0

I may mention here that in checking the statistcs of the administration which were first submitted to me, the discrepancies which were brought to light and called for explanation led the Dewan to make a personal scrutiny of the office records bearing on those subjects for the two past years, and the result was not only that revised statements were submitted for the year 1874-75, but also for the preceding year. These returns are not of such importance to Government as to render it necessary that I should submit the revised statements for 1873-74, but in many instances the true figures are indicated when comparative statements are given for the year now under review. As, for instance, when it is mentioned that the revenue derived in 1874-75 from elephant kheddahs was Rupees 24,000, which, as compared with 1873-74, shows an increase of Rupees 5,984, it will be understood that the amount of revenue derived from that source in 1873-74 was Rupees 18,016, and not Rupees 20,000, as stated in the report for that year.

LAND REVENUE.

This is derived only from land in the plains, which is held principally in talooks and farms. For the hills, a family tax, called ghur-chukli, is levied in lieu of land rent.

FAMILY TAX ON THE HILLS.

The subjoined statement shows from what tribes this tax is levied, and in what proportions; whilst the census statement, which has been already given, shows the number of each tribe exempted from taxation. It has been mentioned in former reports why some tribes pay at a higher rate then others, and why some are almost wholly exempt from it. I can give no reason for there being a decrease this year from this source of revenue; but this, as stated elsewhere, will be rectified in the next report :

Tribe.	Rate per family,	Actual Jumma paid
	Rs. A P.	Rs. A. P.
Tipperahs	3 8 0	11,271 0 0
Jamatyas	3 8 0	1,771 4 0
Nowatyas	10 0 0	3,650 0 0
Riangs	10 0 0	4,320 0 0
Hallams	Rs. 2,Re. 1 As. 10, &c.	2,218 4 0
Kookees	5 4 0	136 8 0
	Total	23,367 0 0

FOREST PRODUCE

I look upon this as the most important source of revenue belonging to this State, and which would prove the most lucrative of all if properly worked. It is at present managed, with one exception, on the farming system; but, for want of a proper knowledge as to what the farms are capable of yielding, they are let out in almost all cases at absurdly low rents. There are 28 farmers of forest produce, and the maximum revenue paid to the State by one man is Rupees 5, 757, and the minimum Rupees 10-10. The farmers rights extend only to collecting the forest dues, which are levied according to a scale fixed by the Raja on (1) produce removed by river, and (2)produce removed by land, and those constitute two distinet classes of farms. In consequence of a judement I gave in a case concerning theft of forest produce, the Raja discovered that all the present farmers held only farms of the first-mentiioned kind, whereupon he immediately issued a proclamation resuming all the "khuski" forest mehals, that is, farms for the collection of dues on produce removed by land. Therefore, next year, the revenue from this source ought to be very much increased. The increase this year has been due to an enhanced rate being fixed for those leases which had lapsed in the previous year. The only forest mehal which is managed

khas is the Fenny Ghat, where tolls are levied on all produce conveyed or floated down the Fenny river. This river from its source to Amlighata, where these transit duties are levied, forms the boundary between Hill Tipperah and the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Therefore, the British Government claim a 6-anna share in the toll, the duties of which are performed jointly by an officer appointed by each party. Up till June 1874 the toll had been farmed, and the income which the Hill Tipperah State then derived from it was only about Rs. 2,000 per annum; but from that date it was taken under khas management by both parties, and owing apparently to a very judicious selection in the officer appointed on behalf of the British Government, the income accruing to the Raja this year during the ten months of khas management was no less than Rs. 12,000. If the Raja can be persuaded to follow this system throughout his State, it will be much to his advantage.

COTTON.

The cotton is grown entirely on the hills by "jooming", and is sold by the hill people to the exporters either on the hills or in the markets in the plains. The exporter has to pay to the farmer of the cotton mehal Rupees 1-2 to Rupees 1-14 as duty, according to the quality. The cotton mehal was farmed to two persons, one of whom, paid to the State Rupees 46,350, and the other Rupees 830-14. I have been unable to procure returns showing the total quantity of cotton exported, but the larger farmer of the two informs me that the quantity exported through his ghats during the year was 35,043 maunds, and that the duty collected by him at the above rates amounted to Rupees 45,441, so that the total exports of cotton from the State may be put down at about 36,000 maunds. But in addition to the cotton duties, farmers of cotton mehals have also the right to collect duty on the export of til, which is levied at rates of from 8 annas to 14 annas per maund. The same cotton farmer as gave me the information about cotton exports, states that the exports of til at his ghats were 11,395 maunds, the duty paid on which amounted to Rs. 7,693, The til exports may therefore be roughly estimated at 12,000 maunds.

ELEPHANTS.

The ijaras for elephant-catching were given to four persons who paid to the State a share of the value of the elephants captured. These shares vary from two annas to seven annas, the higher rate having been imposed for the first time this year. Hence a slight increase in the revenue realized from this source. The number of elephants caught was 86, of which number 13 died before they could be disposed of. The estimated value of the remaining 73, on which royalty was paid, was Rs. 61,801.

OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE.

The duties leviable on the export of parrots and gurjun-oil and grazing of buffaloes are also farmed out. The cow, ox, and bul lock are held too sacred in Hill Tipperah to permit of any charge being exacted for grazing them. Duties are also levied through farmers on the exports of rice, paddy (called khut-gari) and sharshu; also on an article vended in the markets under the name of chona sikar, which is a small cake manufactured principally from earth, and eaten by women during the period of pregnancy, in those stages which are often evidenced by such caprices in taste, but in the majority of cases it is partaken of with more injury to the woman than good.

Revenue is also realized by a tax on spining wheels (charki mehal), and by licenses of Mahomedan kazis (kazia mehal), for the registration by them of marriages within a certain village or group of villages. But the revenues derived from all these sources are in each case very small, and are only worth mentioning by way of illustrating the extraordinary fertility of resource which the financier of a Native State is possessed of in matters of taxation.

MARKETS.

There are 21 markets in Hill Tipperah, five or which are held at places in the hills.

LAW AND JUSTICE.

Crediting process and commission fees to the State Revenue is a change of system made during the year. Formerly these fees were paid direct to the serving peons and persons appointed to make local enquiries, without being brought to credit in any way in the accounts. The peons are now salaried, and local enquiries are made, not any longer by loafers about the Rajbari, but by some one of the officials of the State, residing near the spot or deputed from elsewhere.

CATTLE POUNDS.

There are ten cattle pounds within the State. There were formerly 14, but four have been abolished as not being self-supporting. The expenditure incurred during the year was Rs. 330-7-10, and the increase in revenue is more than double what it was last year. With the exception of the pound at Belonia, these pounds are in charge of the police officers at whose stations they are established.

ABKAREE.

The excise law passed by the Raja operates only in the plains, as in the hills spirits are not sold, but manufacturers only for home consumption. In the plains there are 84 licensed manufactured and vendors of spirits, which is exactly double the number there were last year. There are two classes of shops, viz :—

(1). Shops held by those who are licensed to manufacture and retail country spirits on the monthly tax system. Duty on each shop per mensem annas 12; number of shops 73.

(2). Shops held by those who are licensed to manufacture country spirits and sell country spirits and imported liquors wholesale or retail. The tax on these is not regulated by any fixed scale, but after fixing the localities where they may, without objection, be established, they are put up to auction, the highest bid for each shop being the annual jumma payable on its account, payments being made in quarterly instalments. The number of such shops is six, and the maximum paid during the year for a single shop was Rs. 100-8, and the minimum Rs 6.

Besides licenses for shops, five licenses were granted to private families to manufacture country spirits for home consumption, the duty paid by each family being eight annas per mensem.

The only country spirits manufactured in the plains are doasta, golapi, and brandy. Doasta is distilled from rice mixed with the leaves, bark, and roots of certain jungle trees. Golapi is merely doasta re-distilled, and brandy is golapi re-distilled.

These spirits are sold by the manufacturerss to the retail vendors at the following rates per bottle :—doasta two annas six pic, golapi five annas, and brandy ten annas. The vendors retail them at the following prices per bottle :—doasta four annas, golapi eight annas, and brandy one rupee.

One scer of rice yields one bottle of doasta, and in the process of re-distilling, two bottles of doasta will produce one bottle golapi, and two bottles golapi one bottle brandy. The brandy is sometimes colored with burnt sugar, but sells at the same price as the colorless liquor.

BUDGET.

I was informed by the Dewan that a budget system had been introduced last year which had not been altogether unsuccessful. On my asking to be favoured with an abstract of the budget statement for the current year, I was told that it was imperfect, but that next year I should have it. The budget system is therefore, I presume, in its chrysalis state, and requires time yet before it can be perfectly developed. I have impressed upon the Dewan the inportance of preparing annually a probable estimate of receipts and expenditure, however rough, as without it is impossible for him to control the expenditure of the State.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The above returns and statistics afford, I think, sufficient evidence that the administrative affairs of Hill Tipperah are in a progressive state. Judging, however, from one or two things that have come to my notice, I have reason to fear that unless the new measures which have been introduced within the last few years are more closely superintended and checked than at present appears to be the case, that laxness, attended with inevitable abuses and dishonest practices, will creep into the work of some of the departments and bring back something after the old order of things. The Dewan, I think, attempts too much himself. He should have a staff of better paid and better qualified assistants under him as heads of departments; and if honest and trustworthy men are procured, as they easily might be if higher inducements were given in point of salary than is now the case, all the details could be left to them, the Dewan simply exercising general control and supervision. At present the Dewan has not only the affairs of Hill Tipperah to attend to, but has also to submit to the Raja numerous references and returns from the manager of his large zemindari in Tipperah, and to examine these and write all necessary replies and instructions, besides acting as the Rajas adviser in these and other matters, and as controller of his household affairs.

When measures entailing any extraordinary expenditure are advocated, a tightness in the Rajas treasure chest is generally brought forward as an obstacle to their adoption, but that ought to be no excuse for withholding sanction to the measure above proposed; for I am certain that close supervision and check would result in increase of revenue from many sources, and would certainly prevent any diminution of it, as would sooner or later be the case if officials were left to do pretty much as they liked.

W. L. SAMUELLS, Captain,
Acting Political Agent,
Hill Tipperah.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT
OF THE POLITICAL AGENCY, HILL TIPPERAH,
FOR THE YEAR
1875-76

No. 134, dated Agurtollah, the 26th June 1876.
From—T. E. Coxhead, Esq., C.S., Ofliciating Political Agent, Hill Tipperah, To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Political Department.

I have the honor to submit my administration report of the Political Agency of Hill Tipperah for the year ending 31st March 1876.

2. Captain Lillingston was in charge of the Agency up to the 26th April 1875, when he was succeeded by Captain Samuells, from whom I took over charge on the 26th February last.

3. Before entering on the various subjects to be embraced in this report, I have first to allude to the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to India, on whom the Rajah keenly regrets that he was unable personally to attend to testify to the loyalty he entertains towards the royal family and the paramount power. The reasons of the Rajah's inability to do as he wished are well known to the Lieutenant-Governor. He felt that he could not, on account of his rank and position, make the journey to Calcutta and take his part in the proceedings connected with the royal visit unless he were able to do so with all the state he would hold it incumbent on him to maintain on so great an occasion ; and the expenditure which this would have entailed his exchequer was not able to bear. The suit preferred by his nephew to oust him from his possessions in British territory had necessitated large outlays, a disastrous fire on the premises of his residence at Agurtollah had occasioned hevy losses, and the collection of rents in his Tipperah estates was, owing to the recent dismissal of his manager and other causes, in a backward and disorganized condition. It was, under these circumstances, the duty of the Political Agent to advise the Rajah not to obey his inclinations, and the Rajah abided by the Political Agent's advice. He was, however, gratified by the Prince of Wales acceptance of the presents he had so much delight in sending; and though the honor of personal communication with his Royal Highness he was unable to enjoy, he has no reason to reproach himself on account of any lukewarmness in expressing his loyalty, or to think that his efforts to show his loyalty were not appreciated by the Prince of Wales and the British Government.

4. The financial embarrassments just alluded to have interfered much with improvements in the administration of his state, to which the Rajah had begun to turn his attention. What advance there has been will appear further on as I treat of each department in detail. The Rajah is not averse to progress; and though his habits are not businesslike, he is to some extent conscious that little can be done in that direction unless efforts are made to arrest that reckless and extravagant expenditure to which the unsatisfactory state of his finances has been in a considerable measure owing. He has thus considerably reduced the number of wrestlers and such people who formerly were maintained; and on the occasion of the last Doorga Poojah, which is observed at the rajbari with great éclat, he dispensed with the nautch that had usually formed an important and very expensive part of the proceedings. Still there is much to be done in this direction; and though the Dewan, Baboo Nilmani Das, is exerting himself to check waste and prevent pillage, the traditions of a native court are such, and the nature of the Rajahs surrounding's is such, that it cannot be expected his exertions will be more than partially successful.

5. The relations of the Rajah with his ryots both in British territory and in the margin of flat country which lies outside the hills, but within the boundaries of his state, are not yet on the best of footings, though to some extent they have been imporved. The evils of the system of putting up farm leases to auction have become appreciated, and several leave within the year been resumed, and settlements made with the cultivators direct. But rents are still largely in arrears, and the ryots are generally averse to the measurement of their lands, which the Rajh has set on foot. The diffculties of the Rajah with his ryots in British territory, it was hoped, would have been allayed through the labours of the new manager, Mr. Hume Smith, who was appointed in July last. But the new manager did not give satisfaction, and his services were dispensed with after a very short trial. Since his dismissal in November last the estate has been without a manager, and the Dewan, whose other duties are most onerous, has had much additional work thrown upon him. There is a subordinate officer at Comillah, but

under existing arrangements it cannot be expected that things can be good for either Rajah or ryots. It is much to be deplored that Mr. Smiths appointment had so unsatisfactory a termination. When he was appointed the Rajah was alive to the fact that what his estates required was their management by an experienced, energetic, firm, and honorable gentleman. Whatever Mr. Smiths qualifications may have been, it is plain that almost from the very first those with whom he had to work became his enemies. It may have been that he showed a want of tact and caution; and till the services of a separate manager possessed of these as well as other necessary qualifications have been secured, the condition of the estate will never be satisfactory. The relations of the manager with the Dewan would have to be clearly defined, so as to preclude any misconception which apparently existed during Mr. Smiths short tonancy. Though, owing to the want of a manager, schemes for the improvement of the estate have not advanced much during the year under report, some progress has been made in the survey operations set on foot within the jurisdiction of thana Chaganiya, which was transferred from Tipperah to Noakholly in January last; 16,700 beeghas of land in pergunnah Dakhinshik were surveyed. These survey operations have, of course, been instituted with a view to the enhancement of rent, and, as has been indicated above, are not viewed by the ryots with satisfaction. It is with the people of Chagalniya that the Rajah's relations are the most difficult, as will appear from my next paragraph; and with these survey operations in hand, the services of a manager would seem to be indispensable.

6. The enforcement of the payment of forest dues has been one of the most imporant matters with which the Rajah's administration has been occupied during the past year. The officers of the state have been doing their work in this respect with much energy.

There are two classes of forest dues—first those which are levied on produce conveyed by land, and next those which are levied on produce conveyed by water. The second class of duties is for the most part leased out in farm, but the former class is now entirely in the hands of the Rajah.

It had been notified to the people living on the frontier in British terriroty that forest produce, to be carried away, must be paid for. Liberal terms of settlement were offered on behalf of the Rajah. A man might either pay a small duty on each load of produce, or, by a payment of from six to ten annas a year, cut and carry away as much thatching grass, bamboos, and firewood as he could. The payment of eight annas to one rupee gave him the right to graze a buffalo throughout the year in hill territory. But the villagers on the borders were generally averse to this arrangement. They claimed a preseriptive right to cut forest produce and graze their cattle without making any payment whatever, and they showed themselves determined to exercise the right claimed. The Rajah's officers then began to impound trespassing cattle, and arrest persons found in hill territory with forest produce in their possession for which no settlement had been made. To a certain extent the villagers began to come to terms, but the people of Madhugram, in the jurisdiction of thana Chagalniya, formed a coalition, and to the number, as was estimated, of 600 or 700, on the 12th January last attacked the Rajah's thana at Mohesh-Pushkarini, where there was a toll-house, burnt the station buildings, assaulted the burkundazes who resisted them, and decamped with some Rs. 500 worth of property. An application was made to the Political Agent, who issued warrants against those who had been identified—14 in all. The case was tried at Agurtollah by the Dewan with the aid of two assessors. Fourteen persons have in all up to date been arrested and tried. Of these ten have been punished with terms of imprisonment ranging from five years on the charges of dacoity, arson, and others, three persons have been acquitted, and one contrived to escape from detention during the trial. Those punished have appealed to the Rajah, but the appeal has not yet been heard. The manner with which this case has been dealt has had a considerably deterrent effect at Chagalniya and elsewhere, which effect, it is to be hoped, will be permanent.

7. Statement A will show that there has been an increase of nearly Rs. 23,000 in the revenue of the Hill Tipperah state over that shown for the year preceding, and it is creditable to the Dewan's administration that

since he undertook it there has been an increase to the revenue of the state of over Rs. 55,000. The Dewan is hopeful of shewing a further increase next year. There is something to remark on some of the heads of revenue sources. Most of the land revenue in the plains (i.e. in the border strip of level land within the hill state's boundaries) is paid by farmers whose leases are from one to seven years. Much is, however, collected under direct management, and the resumption of leases as they expire is in favour. Leases of land covered with jungle are also given for a term that varies from one to seven years, according to the denseness of the jungle to be cleared. The decrease under the head of land revenue in the plains, as compared with that shewn for 1874-75, is owing to the remissions the Rajah made on account of the damage sustained by the crops through the inundations during the last rains. The income on account of forest produce shows a considerable improvement over that of last year, and this is owing to the measures that have been taken to prevent the systematic removal of forest produce without the payment of toll. This matter was dwelt on at length in the last paragraph. There is a decrease of some Rs. 2,500 in the Rajah's share of the tolls levied on the forest produce that is exported by the Fenny river. It will be remembered that under present arrangements the Rajah's share is ten annas, and that of the British Government six annas, in these collections. The reason of the decrease does not appear. Thirty-four thousand one hundred and sixty-two maunds of cotton are said to have been exported during the year, and a large quantity is said to have remained undisposed of in the hills. There is a very large increase under the head of elephants, the captures having been numerous : 134 elephants were caught during the last season, of which four died before they could be disposed of. The estimated value of the remaining 130 was Rs. 1,04,921, of which the Rajah's share was Rs. 37,451. Negociations to procure for our Government the right of working kheddahs in Hill Tipperah have broken down for the present, as the correspondence on the subject will show. There is alarge increase on account of the impost on the grazing of buffaloes, the reason of which is explained in paragraph 6. There are three districts in the state where a tax is levied at certain places on the mooring of boats and rafts. In two the tax is farmed out, and in the remaining one collected direct from the payees. Of these ''khutgari mehals'' one was created during the year 1875-76 in the Udaypore subdivision, and to it is principally to be attributed the increase of revenue under this head. The duties levied on the exportation of cotton, til (*Sesamum indicum*), gurjon-oil (exudation of the *Dipterocarpus turbinatus*), sharshu (mustard-seed), and parrots, are farmed out; so likewise are the duties imposed on the sale of spinning wheels (charki) and a peculiar kind of confectionery used by women (chonashikar). There are places where the *Bixu orellana* is found, and the right to use this product, from which arnotto dye (bilati haldi) is manufactured, has to be paid for. This department of revenue, as well as the two last in the list, were created during the year. Their proceeds are as yet insignificant. The grass mehal is the rent paid for certain lands in which thatching grass is heaped previous to removal, and the ''jalkar mehal'' is the rent of certain fisheries. Under the head of markets there is a slight decrease, with which the inundations above referred to may have had something to do. There are nineteen markets and four periodical fairs held in the state. Five markets, viz. at Udaypore, Bishalgarh, Devi Bazar, Farnah Dharm Nagar, and Kamalpore, are held in the interior of the hill country. The increase of civil and criminal cases explained further on accounts for the improvement of the revenue under the heads law and justice, court fees, and process fees. The income derived from the chowkidari tax (adda-mehal) was, by an oversight, not shown last year. There has been an increase under the head of excise. The system under which spirits are manufactured and sold was described in the last report, and no changes have since been made. An attempt to manufacture ganja has failed. Opium is manufactured to a small extent from poppies grown within the state; the cultivators are paid at the rate of Rs. 10 to 16 a seer for it. In 1873-74 five seers and three and a half tolahs were manufactured, in 1874-75 one seer and fourteen chittacks, and in 1875-76 three seers. The drug is used principally to deal out to certain classes of beggars who are nearly always to be found about the rajbari. The hill people are, as a rule, exempted from payment of duty on spirits manufactured for home use. There is

an increase under the head of pounds. Twenty pounds are now open in the state, of which 13 are in the Udaypore subdivision. Many have been opened in the course of the year as a measure to prevent the grazing of cattle without the payment of toll. The expenditure incurred for all the pounds was Rs. 251-10, the income from them was Rs. 1,045-9-6; the profit therefore has been Rs. 793-15-6; while in 1874 the profit was only Rs. 482-2-6, and in 1873-74 Rs. 297-14-11. There has been a falling off under the head of municipality. Remissions of tax in consideration of damage done by the inundations seem to be the reason. The cost of the municipal establishment was Rs. 552. Some of the bye-ways at Agurtollah have been repaired, a small bridge of masonry built, and some jungle cleared.

8. There is no money current in the state except that of British Indian coinage, and, to a small extent, Bank of Bengal notes. On occasions such as a Rajahs installation or his marriage coins are struck in commemoration of the event, but are not used as money. No facilites exist for money transactions by bills of exchange or other such means.

9. Before bringing the revenue portion of my report to a close, I regret to have to state that the budget system has not been really introduced, notwithstanding the attempts made in that direction. The matter is one of great importance, and the Dewan is fully impressed with the fact. It is to be hoped that during the present year the system amy be established.

10. The education of the Joobraj is one of the matters to which the Lieutenant-Governor drew express attention in his resolution on the last report. The Joobraj, Rajkumar Radha Kishore Deb, is a young man of between eighteen and nineteen years of age, of amiable character, agreeable manners, and fair abilities. His education till recently had been much neglected, but during the year under report more attention has been paid to it, and with hopeful results. He is now a good Bengali scholar, can understand English of an easy style, and can express himself to some extent in that language by letter, though he is too diffident at present to do so in conversation. He and three of his brothers have been and are stydying under a tutor, Baboo Radha Raman Ghose, a graduate of the Calcutta University, who has been doing his duty by his pupils. The age of the Joobraj, who is married, and with whom his wife resides, renders it difficult sometimes for his tutor to insist on more than a desultory prosecution of his studies, and will not, I fear, admit of his being sent to be educated in British territory. The Joobraj and his brothers have never left Agurtollah, and had hardly ever left the rajbari till Captain Samuells obtained the permission of the Rajah that they should be permitted to visit him occasionally. By the provision of games for thier amusement these visits became very acceptable to them, and they mark an epoch in their education. I may add that since the close of the year under report, the Joobraj has established a literary and debating society, of which he is the president, and his brothers and a few thakoors and other gentlemen are members. The society meets once a week, when original eassays are read and subjects discussed. The Joobraj has, moreover, at my suggestion, set about the compilation of a Tipperah vocabulary. He is perfectly acquainted with the vernacular of the hill people, and I am in hopes that the result of his undertaking will have some scientific interest. The Joobraj now takes a part in the management of the Agurtollah School, and I trust will, before long, be initiated into other administrative duties. In the meantime I have reason to hope that a visit or two to places outside the state, if at first no further than to Comillah, will help to enlarge his mind, and develop in him an interest beyond the narrow sphere in which he moves at present.

11. From the education of the Joobraj it will be convenient to pass to the subject of education generally. There are in the state now two schools and two pathsalas. The pathsalas were established during the year under report—one at Agurtollah and one at Amlighata. The one at Agurtollah was opened by the Joobraj, is situated within the rajbari premises, and was intended almost exclusively for the children of thakoors and of servants of the Rajah. Fees at the rate of four annas to one rupee per mensem have been paid by the pupils, though the Agurtollah School is supported entirely by the state grant of Rs. 1,350 (for the year). There is a committee of

management for the Agurtollah School. The Koilashur School is supported partly by the grant of Rs. 180 from the state and partly by pupils fees. The pathsala at Amlighata, on the river Fenny, was opened by the Dewan in December last when visiting the locality. Statement B shows the number of boys on the rolls, and, with regard to the two shcools, the daily average of attendance. I cannot say that during the year the Agurtollah School has worked well. The proportion of boys in daily attendance to those on the rolls has been very unsatisfactory. The native members of the committee have not taken much interest in their functions, and the masters have not been kept up to their work. The thakoors especially have been remiss in insisting on the regular attendance at school of their children, but they have had some excuse in finding that their children derived but little benefit from attendance. The Rajah has lately adopted stringent measures with a view to remedy these defects. The head-master has been removed, and changes have been made among the other masters. The especial interest of the Joobraj has been awakened to the affairs of the school, and the thakoors have been informed that the Rajah views their indifference to the education of their children with great displeasure. I do not think there is much hope of the furtherance of education among the hill people for some time to come. Those living in the interior are more or less nomadic, the exhaustion of the soil which the joom system involves occasioning a constant change of domicile. The Udaypore Deputy Magistrate will, he says, make efforts to introduce plough cultivation in some parts of his jurisdiction, and if his efforts are attended with success, the establishment of a hill pathsala or two may follow. In the course of the ensuing cold weather a new school is to be opened at Udaypore, besides two pathsalas in the plains, within the Udaypore Sub-divisional Officers jurisdiction. The idea of instituting a girls school at Agurtollah has been entertained by the Rajah, and there is some prospect of the idea being carried out before the next report is submitted.

12. I have spoken above of the indifference the thakoors have to education, and I may in this place be permitted to make some further remarks on the "nobles of" Hill Tipperah. The thakoors include all those—other than the sons of the present Rajah—whose descent from some former Rajah is admitted. They also include some others of reputed Kshatriya origin, who are held to be the descendants of those who accompanied the founder of the present line of Rajahs when he established himself in Hill Tipperah. With the exception of a few who hold state offices, and a few who have some other means of subsistence, they are all dependent on a small monthly grant the Rajah allows them. In addition to this monthly allowance, extra grants are applied for on such occasions as a marriage or a performance of funeral obsequies, and are usually allowed. Till recently many of them had farms (ijaras), but these have now been generally resumed. There are at Agurtollah some forty or fifty thakoors who draw separate allowances. With the exception of those who hold offices, the rest give no return for what they receive, unless the attitude of servile obeisance and sycophancy they maintain towards the Rajah be considered a return. Steeped for the most part in ignorance and sloth, they are intensely proud of their reputed Kshatriya ancestry.

Inheriting with the non-Hindu element in their blood a freedom from the trammels which caste imposes in diet and other matters, there are few sections in the Hindu community in which deep-rooted prejudices throw stronger obstacles in the way of civilization. Forming as they do in all their wants and claims a heavy charge on the resources of the state, they not only, as has been asserted above, confer no benefit on the state, but by the dead-weight influence they are able to exercise on the Rajah's counsels, offer a continual hindrance to social and administrative improvement.

13. There is an institution current among the thakoors on which it will be necessary to say a few words. It is not an uncommon thing for a hillman when in difficulties to sell himself for a period in consideration of the debt incurred being liquidated. Sometimes he sells himself without any restrictions as to the term of his slavery, sometimes he sells himself with his wife and children. Women also dispose of themselves for the same reason. But it is not so much on account of those who have more or less voluntarily incurred bondage that the custom

is so hateful, but on account of the effects to their posterity. Their children are slaves, and remain so if their parents have died when in slavery, or have run away leaving them. If they are girls, the position they sometimes come to occupy in their masters household may be understood. The attention of the Political Agent was drawn to the subject during the year, and in a case which was brought to the notice of the Rajah, the Rajah ordered the release of the women detained. Her master was Gour Chundra Thakoor, the appellate Magistrate and Judge. In another case which was referred to me by the Magistrate of Tipperah, to whom a complaint had been made by a hillman for some years past a resident in British territory, that his wife and children were being detained in slavery in Hill Tipperah, the Rajah has lately passed similar orders. Two of the children were grown up young women, and there could be no doubt of the gladness with which the whole family accepted their freedom and accompanied their lawful protector. They had been living as slaves in the house of the Rajahs son-in-law, a young widower; and the Rajahs interference shows that even family bias will not always prevent him from secing that justice is done when a case demanding it is clearly laid before him. I may remark here that the Rajahs interference was obtained on friendly representation; and that in course of conversation, while he was most communicative as to the existence of slavery in his state, he so far expressed his disapprobation of the custom by asserting that there were no slaves in his own household.

14. The Rajah is anxious to give our Government all the aid in his power in enforcing the Arms' Act. He has had special inquiries instituted as to whether any trade in arms was being carried on within his territory for disposal of their contents beyond his borders; but all that has been discovered as yet was that a shopkeeper at Agurtollah, a British subject, had been selling ammunition to residents for ceremonial and sporting purposes. He had no license, but eleven canisters of powder were found in his possession. He had been getting his supplies from a licensed shopkeeper at Dacca. The ammunition was confiscated by the state and the man fined besides. There is a licensed vendor of ammunition at Agurtollah, the only one in the state. He obtains his supplies under a pass obtained through the Political Agent. Through the Rajah has been unable to discover further evidence of any illicit trade in ammunition or in arms, he is alive to the importance of preventing such trade, and has, at the suggestion of the Political Agent, proclaimed throughout his territory his intention to put a stop to it if it exists. The proclamation encourages information by promising half of the fine levied from the offender to the informer and half to the apprehender, and copies were sent to the authorities in the neighbouring British districts for publication within their respective jurisdictions.

15. No instructions have as yet been received as to the frontier posts that are to be maintained in Hill Tipperah. There have been no disturbances on the frontier during the year and a rumour that a body of Kukis were on the move to make a raid from Hill Tipperah into British territory which had been reported by the Deputy Magistrate of the Fenny sub-division, in the Noakholly district, was found to be groundless. There are at present in the state seven posts where a military force is maintained, viz.—

1. Agurtollah.
2. Koilashur.
3. Farnah Dharm Naggar.
4. Kamalpore.
5. Udaypore.
6. Rishiya Mukh.
7. Khaddla Madla.

16. The total number of men who are supposed to be on duty is 205. In addition to these there are 64 men said to be drilled, who are liable to be called out for service when required, and there is a further reserve of 21 men who have not yet undergone any drilling. Statement C shows the various grades of the force, and the races of which it consists. I cannot speak highly of the Rajahs soldiers. They are imperfectly and most irregularly drilled, and hardly, if at all, ever exercised in gun practise. Their nominal head is a respectable and quite old gentleman from the North-West, who has been attached to the Rajahs household for a long time, but who has been attached to the Rajahs household for a long time, but who has had no military training. He seems to take

no part whatever in the management of the force, and is styled ''Major'', though he is the senior of the actual head of the force, whose title is ''Lieutenant-Colonel.'' This officer, though of active disposition and intelligence, is likewise wholly deficient in military training or acquirements. He also has been in the Rajah's household for a very long time, and being a favourite, has been raised to his present position. His salary is only Rs. 30 a month, but he is allowed to farm one of the most important departments of revenue and engage in kheddah operations, and it is in this direction that the activity and intelligence to which I have referred are wholly expended. The pay of the rank and file is Rs 5 and 6 a month, and it is often largely in arrears. In accordance with the Lieutenant-Governor's instructions, the attention of the Rajah has been drawn to the condition of his troops, and he has lately applied to be permitted to import a large number of arms for their use; but if the force is to be made efficient, it will be necessary to urge on the Rajah the adoption of a very different system of organization to that which prevails at present. The Rajah's tastes are not martial, and it has been found hitherto impossible to induce him to take any interest in the condition and improvement of his troops.

17. There are eight thanas and fifteen outposts occupied by civil police. Statement D shows their localities and the strength of the force at each. The total number of civil police in 192. In addition to these there is a body of 50 men called Binindias, or Tipperah burkundazes. Their soecial duty is to serve processes on the hill people. Three new stations and five outposts were opened in the course of the year, all within the jurisdiction of Udaypore. The pay of a policeman is from Rs. 4 to 6 a month.

18. Statement E will show the criminal work done during the year. under report at the courts at Agurtollah and at the sub-divisional courts of Koilashur and Udaypore. The total number of cases instituted during the year was 567, as against 489 in 1874-75, 415 in 1873-74, and 306 in 1872-73. It will appear also that 29 cases were pending at the close of 1875-76, as compared with 25 in 1874-75, 23 in 1873-74, and 158 in 1871-72. The increase in the number of criminal cases is largely owing to the opening of the new sub-division at Udaypore, and to the establishment of more thanas and police outposts. The resolution of the Rajah to enforce the payment of forest dues accounts for a large number of theft cases. I have no reason to believe that crime is increasing among the simple hill people, though two Bengali gentlemen, the Dewan and the Sub-divisional Officer of Udaypore, have expressed to me their opinion that contact with people of the plains has a demoralizing influence upon the people of the hills. The Tipperals are addicted to the use of ardent spirits, and deeds of violence are sometimes the result. Lovers occasionally run away with their sweetherats, but the matter is subsequently almost always amicably arranged. The abductor is sentenced to a ine by a tribe conclave, and so is the father of the girl, who should have taken better care of his daughter. The fines pay for a foast, and when that is over, the escapade has been sufficiently atoned for. When I visited, in March last, the court of the Udaypore Sub-divisional Officer at Sonamura, he informed me that he intended to endeavour within his jurisdiction to put a step to this very simple procedure, and enforce morality by prosecutions for abduction, kidnapping, and extortion, the feast expenses being, in his opinion, extorted from the girl's father. The course he was contemplating seemed to me most undesirable, and I was glad to find on my return to Agurtollah that the Dewan was of the same opinion, and that the course would not be followed. There are at Agurtollah four orginal criminal courts, presided over by the following officers:—

Baboo Nilmani Das, Dewan,
Thakoor Dino Bandhu Deb.
'' Parbati Charan Deb.
" Mukanda Ram Rai.

By far the heaviest file has been that of Dino Bandhu Tahkoor, known officially as the nazir saheb. He seems to have done his work carefully and expeditiously. At Koilashur there is one court, and at Udaypore, or rather Sonamura, one court, each presided over by the Sub-divisional Officer. The Koilashur Deputy Superinten-

dents criminal work has been light. No appeals seem to have been preferred from the decisions of either of these officers, and the inference is that their sentences are not inordinately severe. With respect to the Agurtollah Magistrates, the result of appeals is shown in statement F. The appeals do not appear to have been numerous—32 in all (including those pending from last year); but in 22 of them the judgment of the lower court was either reversed or modified; and the inference from this would be that defendants in Hill Tipperah are not in the habit of appealing on insufficient grounds, and not that the judgment of the lower courts are generally careless or unjust. Gour Chundra Thakoor is the judge to whom appeals generally lie. A court of special appeal is presided over by the Rajah himself, and of that court the Dewan is a member, unless he happens to be the officer whose order is appealed against. Statement G shows that the number of criminal cases in which British subjects were concerned was 118, against 41 in 1874-75, 71 in 1873-74, and 26 in 1872-73. One of the causes of this great increase has already been indicated. Of those who systematically endeavour to evade payment of the Rajah's forest dues, I regret to say a large proportion consists of British subjects. Most of the new thanas established are on the borders, and within their jurisdictions British subjects have offended. Another and the principal reason for the greati nerease shown in statement G is that the cases formerly tried by the Political agent are now tried in the Rajah's courts. I have in my 6th paragraph given an account of one of the principal cases that occurred during the year—the Mohesh Pushkarini case. Another important case was the murder by Roshan and others of one Kassim Ali, of which I will briefly give the particulars. Between Roshan and Kassim Ali ill-feeling had existed for a long time, and several cases had been instituted by one against the other, founded on their respective claims to certain lands. Kassim had, moreover, incensed many of his neighbours against him by bringing suits against them. A conspiracy, in which Roshan was the prime mover, to waylay and murder Kassim was the result. Kassim was a servant in the employ of the Rajah, at whose house he daily attended, returning to his own house at night. Meeting a favourable opportunity, the conspirators waited for him, attacked, and beat him to death. They concealed the body in a jungle some two miles from the place of the murder. One of the conspirators, Riyazuddin, informed against his accomplices. A Preliminary investigation was promptly made into the case by Dino Bandhu Thakoor, and subsequenly tried by the Dewan with the aid of two assessors. The defendants (Riyazuddin gave evidence for the prosecution and was pardoned) were found guilty of murder, and the finding was reported to the Rajah, with a recommendation that Roshan be sentenced to capital punishment, and the others (two in number) to imprisonment for life. The Rajah passed an order in accordance with the recommendation; and after a reply had been received in answer to a communication from the Political Agent to the Government of Bengal, Roshan was hanged.

19. Statements H and I show the work that has been done under the Extradition Act during the year. Since the receipt of instructions on the subject, no cases have been tried by the Political Agent himself. Warrants have never been issued without proper inquiry, nor have cases been certified as fit to be tried in British India except for the reasons indicated in the instructions received. There were at the close of 1874-75 ten cases on the Political Agent's file, four of which were made over to the Rajah's courts, and the remainder struck off by the Political Agent, who was of opinion that they should never have been entertained.

20. Statement J shows the results of civil suits in the various courts for the year under report. It will be observed that there were 323 institutions, against 194 in 1874-75, 308 in 1873-74, and 229 in 1872-73. Of these 333, 102 belong to the new sub-division of Udaypore, and to the establishment of the new court there, which has given people in that part of the state fucilities of having recourse to law, is to be attributed the great increase. Statement K shows the number of civil suits in which British subjects were plaintiffs or defendants Of the 94 institutions, 57 belong to Udaypore and were mostly for the recovery of rents. The number of cases pending at the close of 1875-76 was 61, against 48 in 1874-75, 82 in 1873-74, 123 in 1872-73, and 372 in 1871-72. Statement L shows the result of civil appeals. Gour Chundra Thakoor is the appellate judge. Only once case

is pending. The hill pople generally settle their disputes by means of punchayets. They are disputes for the most part about cutting jooms and the liquidation of small debts. The procedure made use of is simple, but quite adequate for its purposes, and it is to be hoped it will not too soon give place to one more intricate and expensive.

21. During the year under report a census of the inhabitants of the plains was taken, with the result shewn in statement M. The population of this strip of border land is shown to be 34,120, as compared with 32,413 estimated last year. The return can only be held to be approximately correct. No census of the hill people was taken. The numbers given in statement N were based on the returns made by the sardars, or headmen, as to the number of families in their respective paras, or house-clusters. An average of five and a half persons is calculated for each family. The total number of persons is stated to be 41,672, while last year 41,829 were shown. The Dewan has reason to believe that the sardars have learnt to misrepresent the number of houses in their paras, but he appreciates the caution to be observed in any measures that may be taken to arrive at more correct results. In accordance with a suggestion from the Political Agent, he made an attempt to procure from some of the sirdars information as to the position of villages or groups of houses under them, but this information they refused to give, on the plea that it had never been demanded before, and the Dewan considered it inexpedient to persevere in the attempt. The total population of the state, including both hill and plain men, is shown to be 75,792, against 74,242 estimated last year.

22. The jail at Agurtollah is sufficiently commodious for its requirements, and the number of guards maintained is adequate. The discipline of the guards is not all that could be wished; and when the Mohesh Pushkarini case was under trial, one of the defendants managed to effect his escape. There are rules in force on the discipline to be observed by the prisoners, their dieting, and other jail matters. The prisoners are employed in in-door and out-door work, and work six hours a day. Those who have been sentenced to imprisonment for upwards of six months have clothes supplied to them by the state. Blankets are given in the cold weather. The food is good and sufficient. Medical attendance is supplied. During the year 46 prisoners were under treatment, but there was no death. There were 57 admissions into the jail during the year. The average daily attendance was slightly over eleven. The small number of admissions in comparison with convictions is accounted for by the fact that punishment by means of fine is largely resorted to. At Udaypore, or rather at Sonamura—for there the Sub-divisional Officer has been during the year—there is no jail or lock-up. Accused persons under detention are kept in the guardhouse, and persons sentenced to imprisonment are sent to Agurtollah. At Koilshur (the other sub-division of the state) there is a lock-up, but during the year there were only twelve admissions.

23. There is a dispensary at Agurtollah and one at Koilashur. The one at Agurtollah has been working well. The Rajahs present surgeon, Baboo Syama Churn Chatterji, M.B.,,is a well educated and clever man. The dispensary establishment is sufficient. Statement O gives the number of patients treated at the two dispensaries, and statement P shows the result of the treatment. There being but few in-door patients, the proportion of ascertained deaths to cures is very small. The one at Koilashur is on a small scale, but its sphere of usefulness will doubtless be widened. A dispensary is to be opened at Udaypore on the removal there of the Deputy Magistrate from Sonamura at the commencement of the cold season. Statement Q shows the income and expenditure of the Agurtollah dispensary.

24. I may in this place make a few remarks on the general health of the people during the year under report. The Hill Tipperahs are believed to be a healthy race, and free from many idseases generally to be found among more civilized people. They are, however, much subject to skin complaints, the result of their not very cleanly habits. They deny-with how much truth I cannot vouch-that cholera ever breaks out among them, unless it is brought to them by people from the plains. The Manipuris, of whom there are numerous families in the state, are likewise a healthy race. Cleaner in habits than the Tipperahs, they enjoy a comparative immunity form

cutaneous disorders. There was an outbreak of cholera at Agurtollah in February and March last. In all there were 52 cases treated, in which there were 35 recoveries and 13 deaths. The result of the remaining four cases is not known, as the patients were taken away by their friends while under treatment. The type of the disease, according to Baboo Syama Churn Chatterji, was not very virulent. When the disease broke out at Agurtollah the people were seized with a panic. The courts and the school were closed. Measures were taken by the Rajah to allay the panic among the people, who were cautioned not to make use of the river water (pronounced unhealthy) for drinking or culinary purpeses. The sale of rotten fish was prohibited in the bazar, and medicine supplied to the Chief Magistrate at Agurtollah for distribution. The native doctor and compounder attended patients at their own houses, and a cholera-ward was opened at the dispensary. Vaccination operations had been fairly started just as the cholera broke out. The outbreak and the concomitant panic stopped further progress, and but two children were vaccinated, one of whom unfortunately was among the cholera victims. I am assured that next year a special vaccinator will be entertained, and operations caried out on a systematic plan. In the Koilashur sub-division, during the months of March, April, May, and June, there was an outbreak of small-pox among the Kukis : of 104 attacked, 60 died. Assistance was rendered by the Sub-divisional Officer, and efforts made to stay the progress of the disease by inoculation. Three hundred and ninety-three persons were inoculated, four of whom died of the disease thus contracted, in addition to those already mentioned. The disease had disappeared by the end of June.

25. But little progress has been made in the matter of roads. The Rajah sanctioned the expenditure of Rs. 2,000 for roads for 1875-76, but of this amount only Rs. 1,109 were spent; the absence of the Dewan on tour during the working season being the reason that part of the road lying within Hill Tipperah that is to connect Agurtollah with Kushba, whence the road runs to Comillah, was not pushed on as it should have been. There are men now at work on the road, and there is little doubt but that it will be finished (its length is about three miles) in the course of the ensuing cold weather. For the rest of the road as far as Kushba, which will run through his estate in British territory, the Rajah will give up the land free of charge.

26. A post-office was opened at Agurtollah on the 1st October last. It is entirely supported by the Rajah with a monthly grant of Rs. 40. The line is from Agurtollah to Kushba, a distance of 12 miles, where it meets the Brahmanbaria and Comillah line. The post-office at Agurtollah is under the supervision of the Post-Master-General of Bengal. The Political Agent is ex officio postmaster, and his head clerk, who, under the arrangements made by the Post-Master-General, enjoys an allowance of Rs. 12 a month out of the Rajah's grant, manages all the details of the office, which has worked well and is a great boon to many of the inhabitants of Agurtollah.

27. I have not much to observe on the state of public feeling. Only a very small percentage of the inhabitants has any interest but in the circumstances of its daily life. I have elsewhere spoken of the relations existing between the Rajah and some of his ryots. The Political Agent was in the cold weather prevented by sickness from making any tour in the interior or along the frontier, and so informing himself of the opinions or wishes of the people on any subject. I have already alluded to a short visit I paid in March last to Sanamura, in the Udaypore sub-division, but my visit was only made with a view of seeing the Sub-divisional Officer and something of his work. A few newspapers—English and vernacular—are in circulation among the educated Bengalees at Agurtollah. It is needless to say there is no local press; but the Sanscrit poem called the Rajmala, which has since its composition been regarded by the Rajahs of Tipperah as the most sacred heirloom in their possession, is being prepared for publication. The Rajah has expressed himself anxious to be permitted to dedicate it to the Prince of Wales in commemoration of his Royal Highness's visit to India. As it will be shortly before scholars, it will be sufficient here to remark that the poem is said to be about 400 years old, and the embody much more ancient traditions concerning the early history of Tipperah, which were translated by the

pandit from the mouth of the Chontai, or head priest, of the hill people.

28. Some observations regarding the officials by whom the work—revenue and criminal—is carried on have already been made. The Dewan's qualifications are well known through the reports of my predecessors. His duties, apart from what the management of the large estate in British territory at present involves, are so onerous that, as has before been insisted, the appointment of a special manager for the estate is in the highest degree desirable. The most intelligent of the thakoors are employed in magisterial and other duties, and the two sub-divisions are officered by gentlemen of ability and character. But some important offices are filled by persons of no qualifications for them, and a proper regard has not always been paid to the antecedents of those whom the Rajah thinks fit to retain in his service. The private expenses of the Rajah naturally engross a large part of the state revenue, and there is little check upon the accounts of those who pay out the money. The Dewan is awake to the dishonesty that prevails, and has done something to lessen it, but action in this direction, he feels, requires the greatest caution, and the interference of the Political Agent would, under present circumstances, only make it more difficult for him to exert his influence in other directions where it would be valuable.

29. In conclusion, I may express my hope that it will be seen that in many departments of the state's administration progress has been made during the year. There is reason to believe that the efficiency of the courts of justice will continue to improve. The Political Agent has instructions closely to watch the proceedings of the courts, and though he is to exercise no dictatorial interference, he will probably always contrive to exercise a beneficial influnce. In criminal cases where British subjects were concerned, if he were to observe that injustice were done, that cases were decided with dilatoriness or in a perfunctory manner, that obstacles were thrown in the way of appeals, that witnesses were put to unnecessary inconvenience, he would decline to issue warrants for the apprehension of native British subjects. The various Acts which obtain in the state will probably be revised during the present year and deficiencies supplied, and it is to be hoped that the Dewan will be able to devote special attention to the procedure of the police.

With regard to the revenue administration, I have shown what increase there has been during the year under report, and have noticed the Dewans expectations of a further increase this year. In some cases the effort to create new sources of revenue is hardly deserving of approbation; and if much remains to be done in improving the system under which the revenue is collected, no less has to be done in improving the system under which the revenue is spent. I have already alluded to the waste and dishonesty that prevails, and to the efforts made by the Dewan to check the abuses. From a continuance of these efforts, and from the bonafide establishment of a budget system, much may be hoped, notwithstanding the Rajahs inaptitude for business and the weakness of his resolutions.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT
OF THE POLITICAL AGENCY, HILL TIPERAH, FOR THE YEAR
1876-77

No. 196, dated Agartala, the 17th July 1877.
From–C.W.Bolton, Esq., C.S., Offg. Political Agent, Hill Tipperah
To The Secretary to the Government of Bengal. Political Department.

I HAVE the honor to submit the report of the Hill Tipperah Political Agency for the year ending the 31st March 1877. The report was drafted by Mr. Coaxed before leaving the Agency in April last. Its submission by another officer has rendered necessary a few alterations; and I have also prepared the statements annexed, and added some observations on matters regarding which information has since been obtained from the annual administration report submitted to the Rajah by his principal officer, the Nazir Saheb.

CHIEF EVENTS OF THE YEAR

2. Mr. Coxhead was in charge during the whole period embraced in this report, except for an interval of rather less than three months, during which Mr. J.F. Bradbury was in charge.

3. The formal announcement of Her Majestys assumption of her Imperial title was made at a durbar at Agartala which the Rajah was requested to hold on the first of January last. The day was observed as one of general rejoicing, and Her Majestys gracious intentions are fully appreciated by the Rahah, whose loyalty has never been questioned.

4. The general administration of the State during the year greatly suffered through the misconduct of the Dewan, Baboo Nilmani Das. This matter has been the subject of special correspondence, and the facts are known to the Government. The Dewan, whose services had been lent to the Rajah by the Government, had, with a perfect knowledge of the impropriety of doing so, accepted presents and the promise of presents in money to a large amount from the Rajah, in addition to the salary which had been duly fixed. The promise he had accepted under circumstances that would, without exaggeration, be described as extortion. The satisfaction of his own avarice compelled him to aid, if not to excite, the avaricious designs of other servants of the Rajah subordinate to him. The expense entailed by his proceedings, and his knowledge that if certain improvements were made in the administration there would be less money forthcoming for his own private enjoyment, prevented the employment of funds in directions where they were urgently needed: and the indignation and disquiet caused by such disgraceful conduct have during the year done much to deaden in the Rajahs mind an active desire for reform in more than one department of his administration. The Dewan has been dismissed from the Rajahs employment; but that his engagement should have terminated in such a manner is all the more deplorable from the fact that for so long a time he enjoyed the confidence of the Government.

5. The Rajagh's estates in British territory have not during the year been supervised by a special manager. From their rents must be derived at present the means, in a large measure, for opening out roads in the hill territory, for increasing the efficiency of the military and civil police and effecting other improvements. After the late manager's (an English gentleman) dismissal, the Dewan, being desirous to have the management in his own hands, lent all his influence to dissuade the Rajah, from appointing another officer in his place. The Rajah is now anxious to appoint a European manager, and intends shortly to select one from the many applicants for the appointment.

6. Next to the Dewans misconduct, the cause that has most interfered with the prosecution of desirable improvements has been the fact that it was necessary for the Rajah to arrange for the marriages of several of his children. The Rajag's family is a large one, and in March last three of his sons and five of his daughters were married. The ceremonies, presents, and festivities connected with the celebration of these marriages, have cost probably not less than a lakh of rupees, but economy was observed as far as possible; and as a Hindu chief must make arrangements for the marriage of his children, it is as well, looking at the matter from a purely financial point of view, that these arrangements in the case of eight of his progeny were perfected on one occasion.

7. As regards his own personal expenditure, the Rajah's endeavours to curtail it are deserving of some praise:

and so also are the attempts that have been made to introduce greater order into the treasury accounts and to cope with the practices of dishonest servants. These would have been more successful had the Dewan been acting uprightly; but their result has already been productive of some good, and more is to be hoped from their continuance.

REVENUE

8. Statement A annexed to this report shows the revenue of the state for the year. I need not remark it is exclusive of the revenue derived from the estates in British territory, which is much larger. In comparison with that shown for the previous year, it will be observed that the amounts realized under the several heads show a considerable reduction. It appears, however, that the amounts given in the previous year's return were only estimates of probable receipts, while the present return represents actual receipts during the year. It would be futile to seek for explanations of the rise or fall of the several branches of the revenue as exhibited by figures compiled on these different methods. The total income of the year was probably not much above or below that of the previous year. The nature of all these sources of revenue was fully explained in the report of last year. The retention of the insignificant mehals or farms for parrots, gurjan-oil, sarshu (mustard-seed), charki (spinning wheels), chona shikar (a wafer cake used by women), and the creation of the new belati haldi (saffron) and jalkar (fishery) mehals as branches of the revenue, are decidedly matters in the financial administration which call for unfavourable comment. These taxes yeild a very slight revenue to the State, while the actual collections made by the farmers must be disproportionately large and harassing to the people. They are maintained solely for the advantage of the farmers, generally dependents of the Government, who, by nominal payments to the State, obtain privileges which enable them to increase their incomes at the expense, and greatly to the inconvenience, of the people. It is also probable that they afford some excuse for retaining a useless clerk in the already overgrown establishment of the Government. I have suggested the abolition of these taxes.

9. In connection with the subject of revenue, I regret to state that the Rajah has not yet adopted the budget system. The matter was pressed on him in the course of the year, but with no definite result. He has informed me that a budget is being prepared, but that difficulties have been experienced in making reliable estimates, which will cause some delay.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

10. The procedure of the Rajah's civil and criminal courts invites, on the whole, favourable comment. Work is done fairly, and generally promptly, and I have never heard the honesty of the various judicial officers questioned. The Rajah has strengthened his administration by the selection of three of the best qualified among the younger Thakurs–one on the criminal and two on the civil side–as assistants in the courts already established. The Political Agent has instructions to watch the procedure of the local tribunals, and he is always in a position to offer beneficial advice. Most of the criminal cases under trial during the year have been of an ordinary nature. The great riot and arson case at Moheshpushkarini, to which reference was made in the last report, still appears as pending against those defendants whose arrest has never been effected. A syce of the Rajah was under trial at the end of the year for a murder alleged to have been committed in March last, and has since been convicted of culpable homicide not amounting to murder. Statements B, C, D, and E, show the work done in the various courts during the year.

EDUCATION.

11. There has been some progress in education during the year. Statement F shows what schools are now open and the number of pupils attending thereat. Orders have been issued for the establishment of a new school at Udaipur, but those orders have not as yet been carried out. A new school has been established in the Manipuri settlement at Agartala. New patshalas have been established at Bisalghar and old Agartala, and a girl's as well as a boys patshala has been opened at the Christian village of Mariamnagar. A muktab for instruction in Persian

has also been established at Agartala. At present this institution does not derive any support from the State, and it is maintained at the expense of the Rajah's family tutor. With the exception of the children of some of the Thakurs, and the Manipuris to some extent, the hill people do not avail themselves of these schools; and there appears to be little ground for hope that any progress will be made in educating Kukis and Tipperahs for some time to come. The tutor to the Rajah's family has been entrusted with the supervision of the Education Department, and as he is a gentleman of intelligence and some zeal, a stimulus may be given to education among the lower orders of Bengali residents. The Judoraj and four of his brothers have been under the instruction of this tutor, Baboo Radha Raman Ghosh, during the year, and some progress has been made by them in their studies. The Juboraj is still engaged in the compilation of a Tipperah-Bengali dictionary, and he has lately become a member of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. He is universally spoken well of; but it is a matter of regret that the Rajah has not been prevailed upon to give him the advantages of travel. He was to have paid a visit to Comilla during Mr. Coxhead's deputation there from August to November last; but first his wife's, and then his own sickness supervened. There can be no doubt that the Rajah is averse to his sons leaving Hill Tipperah, but the Juboraj asserts that he is most desirous to see something of the outer world. It may be hoped that the Rajah's objections will be overcome during the ensuing year, and that the Juboraj will be at least permitted a vist to Comilla. The body of Thakurs, which has existed for some time past as a sort of committee to aid the Rajah in his administration, has lately been reconstituted, and the Juboraj appointed as its vice-president. The committee is now engaged in an adaptation of the Penal Code to the circumstances of Hill Tipperah, and the Juboraj is said to be taking a lively interest in his new duties.

MILITARY FORCE

12. The subject of the Rajah's military police and of frontier defence has been brought to the notice of the Government in separate reports. The force is officered in a most inefficient manner, and the men have no respect for the higher officers, who are in positions which they are not qualified to fill. There are a few good men among the subordinate officers, and among the rank and file there are Gurkhas and up-country men, who are superior to their surroundings; but the bulk of the force is ill trained. The force is paid in a most irregular manner, and at outlying stations the men are five, six, and eight months in arrear. That good men can be attracted to the force under such circumstances cannot be expected, and the reason that the force can exist at all is probably the fact that with the majority of them the lax discipline is some compensation for the irregular pay. So far back as June 1876 the Rajah obtained a pass for the importation of fresh arms, but he has not yet availed himself of it, want of money being the evident reason. No opportunity has been lost of impressing upon the Rajah that the Government will hold him responsible for the possible consequences of his neglect of his military arrangements, and his promises are that he will act up according to the advice given him.

13. Though the various rumours that have been spread during the year of Kuki raids have in every case been proved groundless, their frequency shows the feeling of insecurity that pervades the localities that might be subject to attack. If there were more reason for reliance on the means of defence provided by the Rajah, these false rumours would not arise so frequently. The advisability of opening out communication between his various posts, which are for the most part isolated as regards communication, has been urged upon him as the means of strengthening the confidence both of his own people and British subjects living close to his frontier, as well as of really strengthening his defensive arrangements. As regards communication between Udaipur and Ekshureh, and Udaipur and Sona-Mura, all of them important points, the Rajah has issued orders with a view to carrying out the suggestions of the Political Agent.

TRADE IN ARMS AND AMMUNITION.

14. There is no reason to believe that any illicit trade in arms and ammunition is carried on through Hill Tipperah. The Rajah is acquainted with the orders of Government on the subject, and is desirous to further them. The measures he has taken to prevent illicit trade were explained in the last report.

POLICE

15. Statement G shows the various civil police-stations and outposts in the state, and the number of men employed at each. During the cold weather, or at other times during the year, fifteen of these stations were visited by the Political Agent. Except at Agartala, Kailashur, and Udaipur, the duties of the civil police are almost entirely confined to the collection of rents and forest dues. There is hardly anything for them to do in the way of preliminary investigation of offences, and it is a matter of congratulation that their services are not so required. Crime among the hill people is light. Little peccadillos they deal with themselves; more serious offences are complained of by those aggrieved at the courts, and are dealt with without the intervention of the police; and in cases where native British subjects, residents in the state, are concerned, it is rarely that the police is employed except for the service of processes. The payment of salaries is generally as long deferred among the civil police as among the military police; but the duty is light, and is such as can be adequately performed by those who are willing to enter and continue in the service.

JAIL

16. The jail at Agartala is sufficient for its purposes. The prisoners are treated considerately, and their health is properly attended to. The lock-up at Kailashur is also kept satisfactorily. Punishment by fine is largely resorted to in the criminal courts, and but for the great arson case of last year there would hardly be any prisoners in the Agartala Jail. There is also an "along" at Agartala, which is used for the custody of hillmen only in pursuance of the orders of the civil courts.

PUBLIC HEALTH

17. There is not much to remark on the subject of health. Vaccination has been practised with some success at Agartala, but the hill people are generally averse to its adoption. Cholera and small-pox has carried off victims, but there has been no epidemic. A new dispensary has been established at Udaipur. Statement H shows the number of cases treated during the year in the three dispensaries now opened in the state.

EXTRADITION ACT

18. Statements I and J show the work done under the Extradition Act during the year. Fresh instructions have been received making it compulsory for the Political Agent to examine the defendant arrested under his warrant before making him over to the local authorities. Though this procedure in those cases which are to be tried at Udaipur and Kailashur would necessarily be productive of some delay, its expediency is manifest; and in one case a man, for whose arrest on a charge of criminal breach of trust a warrant had been issued, was sent back to British territory after examination by the Political Agent, his statements and further inquiry into the case having established that he was an escaped slave, and that a false charge against him had been made by his master, a Manipuri resident at Agartala, as a means of recovering possession of him.

DOMESTIC SLAVERY

19. In the last report some observations were made on the subject of slavery. The Rajah, although expressing his desire to pur an end to the custom, took no practical step for its abolition during the year. The influence of the Thakurs, who are naturally reluctant to give up a custom which supplies them with domestic servants at no great cost, was probably exercised to prevail on the Rajah to postpone the reform of this evil. Some cases, principally of enforced detention of a wife or of children on the ground of their servitude, occurred during the year, and called for the interference of the Political Agent. Two cases were reported to Government; and since the close of the year instructions have been received to press on the Rajah the necessity of speedily abolishing bondage in his state. The wishes of Government have been communicated to the Rajah, and he has expressed his willingness to comply with them after consulting the Thakurs as to the measures to be adopted. The matter will, I trust, be soon satisfactorily disposed of.

POPULATION

20. Statement K gives the estimated population of the state and the names of hill tribes. During his tour the Political Agent was able to see something of all these tribes. The Nowatiyas, Jamatiyas, and Riangs, with the Puran or original Tipperahs, are sub-divisions of the Tipperah race. Of them the Riangs are the wildest, and though they have adopted some Hindu customs, as cremation for instance, and worship some Hindu deities alongside of their own national ones, their mode of life is almost as unrestrained by Hindu trammels as is that of the Kukis, who bury their dead and are averse to covering any part of their bodies except for the purpose of warmth. The Riangs are mostly found in the Udaipur sub-division, and many of this tribe have recently left the Chittagong Hill Tracts for this state, the alleged reason being that the late great cyclone destroyed everything they had, and that attempts were being made to collect rents from them according to the usual system in settled districts, whereas they had been accustomed to pay a tax of so much per family, irrespective of the extent of hillside that a family might "jhum." The Deputy Magistrate estimated the number of Riangs who had come into his jurisdiction from the Chittagong Hill Tracts since the cyclone at as many as 1,500. The Nowatiyas and Jamatiyas also are mostly to be found in the Udaipur sub-division. The Kukis and Halans, a tribe closely allied to them, are nearly all to be found in the Kailashur sub-division. They are both a quiet, well disposed people, and stand in much dread of their brethren on our Eastern frontier, who in their raids are not burdened by considerations of relationship. The Kukis will eat anything except the flesh of cats and the milk of cows. The latter they regard as an impure secretion ; but the Deputy Superintendent of Kailashur has in one or two cases partially succeeded in overcoming their prejudies and induced them to taste ghee. The Chakmas are all to be found in the Udaipur sub-division. They have become Hinduized to a greater extent than the other tribes of whom mention has been made. They have adopted the Bengali language, and though "Buddha" is their favourite deity, most of the best known Bengali deities are objects of their veneration. The Manipuris, of whom there are large numbers in Hill Tipperah, are far in advance of the other hill people. Inasmuch, perhaps, as they have renounced the "jhum" mode of cultivation altogether for that by the plough, and inhabit the valleys, they may be classed rather with the people of the plains than with those of the hills. They are an affable, pleasant people, and are thriving. In the north-east of the state the Farua Dhurmnagar valley is receiving an immigration of Manipuris from the Sylhet district. The easy terms on which previously uncultivated land is offered in Hill Tipperah are a sufficient inducement for the movement. Both of the Rajah's wives are Manipuri ladies, and Manipuri brides have been found for four out of the five Rajkumars who are narried. This fact accounts in a considerable measure for the flourishing condition of the Manipuri colonies, though it has occasioned some discontent among the Tipperah Thakurs, whose daughters, as one of these Thakurs complained, had been overlooked in favour of the more "beautiful and fashionable" ladies of Manipur. Education is making some progress among them, and at Bisalghar, a Manipuri settlement, and the Manipuri quarter of Agartala, there are promising schools. The Manipuris have a language of their own, which is closely allied to that of the savage Kukis; and that instruction is imparted to little Manipuris at these schools through the medium of the Bengali language. is not altogether a matter for congratulation. Whatever may be the merits of the Bengali race, and undoubtedly they are many, it is notorious that the character of simpler races who are brought in close contact with Bengalis is not improved by the contact. The Tipperahs of all clans are largely beholden to Bengali mahajans, who combine the profession of money-lending with that of dealers in cotton, the sale of which enables the hill people to procure many things of ordinary use which they do not produce themselves. The Christians mentioned in the statement are the inhabitants of a village some four miles from Agartala, I am informed by them that their ancestors came to Hill Tipperah, some seven generations ago, from Chittagong. They claim a Portuguese origin. They are well conducted people, and live purely by agriculture. Their church

is a thatched hut, on a mat wall of which is afixed a coloured print of Christ on the cross. They are visited at distant intervals by a Roman Catholic priest from Noakholly. There is no one who can read or write among them, but they expressed their desire for instruction, and a patshala for boys and girls has recently been established by the Rajah in their village.

MUNICIPALITY AND POST-OFFICE

21. The municipality established at Agartala four years ago has turned out a complete failure. There is nominally a municipal committee, but no meeting was held during the year. The rates, fixed under an old assessment, were only partially collected, the roads were neglected, and the large expenditure incurred by the municipal darogah on some petty works was uncontrolled by the chairman or any member of the committee. The assessement amounted to Rs. 475, but only Rs. 428, including Rs. 109 on account of arrears, were collected, while the expenditure was Rs. 1,254. The establishment of the municipality appears certainly to have been premature. Agartala is neither a large nor wealthy village– to call it a town would be inappropriate– and would not in British territory be raised to the status of a union. The people are, moreover, far behind the inhabitants of Bengal districts in civilization and education, and, as might be expected, fail to appreciate the advantages of a municipality. I do not therefore feel disposed to advise the maintenance of an institution which appears to be in advance of the social condition of the people, and which could only be kept alive by the single influence of the Political Agent.

The post-office at Agartala is much used by the people. The number of letters received and despatched is increasing.

COLD-WEATHER TOUR

22. Regarding his cold-weather tour, Mr. Coxhead makes the following remarks :-

"Since the middle of November, when I rejoined my appointment in Hill Tipperah, to the end of March, I was away on tour for sixty-three days. During that period I visited the sub-divisional head-quarters of Kailashur and Udaipur; the military posts, besides, of Khadla-Madla, Rishiya Mukh, and Ekshureh; the police-stations and outposts at Nachni-Mara, Michitala, Radhanagar, Puran-Rajbari, Amlighata, Madhabnagar and Belinia. There are no roads in Hill Tipperah, and the journey to Kailashur, marching as expeditiously as I could, took me six days. The route thither lies mostly along the south of the district of Sylhet, between Agartala and Kailashur through the state there not even being a track wide enough for a laden elephant to pass by. To Udaipur and Ekshureh, and as far up the river Gumti (up to the Dumra falls), as it is navigable, I went by boat. When travelling in the interior one is disappointed on account of the limited scenery owing to the dense jungle, which is broken only by sparse clearances of "jhum" cultivation, or where thatching grass and bamboos have been cut. Here and there one comes on large extents of table-land, apparently admirably adapted for tea cultivation. Marshes and minor streams are frequent, and the bed of the latter is often the road along which the traveller has to wade for considerable distances."

APPENDICES

A

Statement showing the amount of revenue derived from land and other sources for the year 1876-77

Sources of revenue	Annual income for 1875-76 (estimates)	Annual income for 1876-77 (actual collections)	As compared with 1875-76	
			Increase	Decrease
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Land revenue from lands in the plains	34,931	31,421	...	3,510
2. Family tax in the hills	24,425	25,415	990	...
3. Tax on forest produce	33,629	22,955	...	10,674
3a. Ditto ditto (fenny Ghat collection 10-annas share)	9,466	8,625	...	841
4. Cotton and til	47,149	46,371	...	778
5. Royalty on elephants caught	37,452	22,715	...	14,737
6. Tota, or parrot mehal	23	23	...	...
7. Gurjan, or wood-oil mehal	34	34	...	...
8. Buffalo mehal	1,374	2,393	1,019	...
9. Khutgari (tax on the mooring of boats and rafts) mehal	1,569	1,409	...	160
10. Sarshu mehal	65	...	...	65
11. Chona shikar mehal	67	69	2	...
12. Charki mehal	24	39	15	...
13. Kapai mehal	125	301	179	...
14. Market	834	731	...	103
15. Law and Justice, fines, & c.	3,957	3,146	...	811
16. Court fee	4,243	5,845	1,102	...
17. Process fee, & c.	896	812	...	84
18. Commission fee	2,926	3,025	99	...
19. Cattle pounds	1,015	1,235	190	...
20. Abkaree	1,367	906	...	461
21. Nazar or tribute	3,942	1,178	...	2,764
22. Adda mehal	3,247	2,138	...	1,109
23. Municipality	616	428	...	188
24. Grass mehal	50	1,808	1,848	...
25. Belati haldi mehal	5	5	...	...
26. Jalkar mehal	12	12	...	...
Total	2,13,473	1,82,632	5,444	36,285

B

General Statement of Criminal Cases (original) for 1876-77

Description of offences	Number of offences reported during the year	Number of persons remaining under trial at commencement of the year	Number of persons brought to trial during the year	Total number of persons under trial	Acquites or discharged	Convinced	Died, escaped, transferred, & c.	Remaining under trial at the end of the year	Remarks
Serious offences									
1. Against person	46	15	112	127	62	35	1	29	In 138 of these cases
2. Ditto property	58	7	117	124	70	43	7	4	British subjects were
3. Against person	209	2	371	373	216	101	4	22	concerned either as
4. Ditto property	175	21	380	401	223	83	17	78	complainants or
5. Miscellaneous	72	1	117	118	44	57	4	13	defendants, or both.
Total	560	46	1,097	1,143	645	319	33	146	

Note– Including cases shown as pending in last year's return

C

Statement showing the Result of Appeals in regard to Criminal cases for the year 1876-77.

	No.
Cases remaining from last year	4
Instituted during the year	30
Total for disposal	34
Judgment of Lower Courts confirmed	10
Reversed	7
Rejected	2
Modified	11
Remanded	2
Total disposed of	32
Pending at close of the year	2

Remarks– In last year's return three cases were shown as pending at the close of the year; but it appears now, from the returns received from the Rajah's office, that four cases were actually pending.

D

Statement of Civil Suits (original) for the year 1876-77

	No.
Pending at commencement of the year	61
Instituted during the year	284
Total for disposal	315
Rejected or dismissed for default	87
Withdrawn with leave or compromissed	27
Decreed on confession or *ex parte*	102
Judgment for plaintiff in whole or part	52
Judgment for defendant	35
Total disposed of	303
Pending at close of the year	42

Remarks– In 78 of these cases British subjects were concerned either as plaintiff's or defendants, or both.

E

Statement showing the Result of Appeals in Civil Suits, 1876-77

	No.
Suits pending at commencement of the year	1
Instituted during the year	19
Total for disposal	20
Order of the Lower Courts confirmed	11
Reversed	2
Rejected	1
Remanded	1
Modified	2
Total disposed of	17
Pending at close of the year	3

F

Statement showing the number of Pupils on the rolls in the Schools in Hill Tipperah, 1876-77

Names of School	Total number of pupils on the rolls	Number of Thakur's sons	Tipperahs	Mainpuris	Assamese	Bengaless (Hindus)	Musulmans	Deswaless	Christians
1. Agartala English-Bengali School	90	33	12	5	.....	27	4	9	.....
2. Agartala Jugal Singh's School	24	3	2	16	.....	3	.....	.....	.....
3. Kailashur Jugal Singh's School	35	.....	.....	1	2	30	2	.....	.....
4. Bisalghar Bengalee Patshals.	17	.....	.....	15	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
5. Mariam-nagar Pat shala.	15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	.....	8
6. Ditto Girls' School	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Total	186	36	14	37	2	62	12	9	13

G

Statement showing the Strength of the Civil Police, with the Names of Thanas and Outposts occupied by them, 1876-77

Names of police-station	Number of daroghas	Number of naib-darogahs	Number of hazaris	Number of mohurirs	Number of jemandars	Number of duffadars	Number of burkun-dazes or kotwals	Total
(Thanas.)								
1. Kotwali (Agartala)	1	....	....	....	2	2	12	17
2. Bisalghar	1	....	....	....	1	....	4	6
3. Puran Rajbari	....	1	....	....	....	....	4	5
4. Amlighata	1	....	....	1	1	....	7	10
5. Rishiya Mukh	1	....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	9
6. Sabrang Mugrum	....	.....	1	1	....	....	8	10
7. Radhanagar	1	....	....	1	....	....	7	9
8. Sona-mura (Sabar-mura)	....	....	....	1	....	....	4	5
(Outputs)								
1. Muchitala	....	....	....	....	1	1	5	7
2. Howrarpar	....	...	...	....	....	....	4	4
3. Abaynagar	....	....	....	....	....	....	4	4
4. Kenaniya	....	....	....	....	1	1	5	7
5. Nachni-mura	....	....	....	....	....	....	4	4
6. Jajirpar	....	....	....	....	....	....	4	4
7. Indranagar	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	4
8. Mantali	....	....	....	.....	.....	.....	4	4
9. Kataliya	....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	8	9
10. Madhabnagar	...	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	8	9
11. Baksanagar	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	6	8
12. Mahesh pushkarini	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	8	10
13. Pagli	...	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	6	7
Total	5	1	1	9	8	4	124	152

H

Statement showing the Number of Cases treated in the dispensaries in Hill Tipperah during the year 1876-77

Number	Name of dispensaries	Total number of cases	Number Cured.	Number absented relieved.	Died	Remaining at the close of the year	Remarks
1.	Agartala	3,521	2,581	895	7	38	
2.	Kailashur	370	307	52	1	10	
3.	Udaipur	64	60	4	.....	.....	
	Total	3,935	2,918	951	8	48	

*This includes cases showsn as ''remaining at the close of the year'' in last year's return

I

Statement of Cases in which Warrants were issued under Section 11, Act XI of 1872, for arrest of accused, 1876-77.

Number of cases	Name of offence	Total number of accused persons for whose arrest warrants had been issued.	Total number of accused persons brought before the Hill Tipperah courts.	Total number convicted.	Total number acquitted or discharged.	Total number brought before the court and pending trial at close of year.	Total number of persons not brought before the court, and warrants returned unexecuted.	Remarks
1	Dacoity and	44*	26	16	10	.....	9	*Warrants issued in 1875-76. Eight of the defendants were shown in last year's statement as convicted and one acquitted/ nine other defendents are still at large.
1	Arson	2	2	.....	2	.....	.....	
4	Theft	18	11†	9	1	.....	7	†One escaped from hajut.
1	Criminal breach	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	
1	Murder	1	1	.....	1	.....	.....	
Total 8		66	40	25	14	.....	17	

J

Statement of Cases certified under Section 9 of Act XI of 1872 (i.e. of charges of Offences committed in Hill Tipperah by British subjects, and certified as cases that should be tried in British India), 1876-77.

Serial number of cases	Natu of offence charged under.	Total number of accused persone brought before court	Total number convicted	Section of the Penal Code under which convieted, and nature of offence.	Total number acquitted or discharged	Remarks
1	Theft of forest produce	2	2	Section 447 (criminal trespass)	.....	
2	Ditto ditto	1	...	... ...	1	
3	Ditto ditto	4	4	Section 147 (rioting) ...	.....	Pending inquity,
4	Ditto ditto	...	...	... ...	.....	Stuck off on defa-
5	Causing hurt					ault of com- plainaut to appear.
6	Ditto	1	1	Section 323 (causing hurt)	.....	
7	Criminal breach of trust	2	...	... ...	2	Ditto ditto.
8	Rape	3	...	... ...	3	
9	Resening Offenders from lawful custody.	14	14	Section 225 trescuing of fenders from lawful custody	...	
10	Wrongful confinement	1	...	... ...	1	
11	Abduction	1	1	... ...	...	
	Total	20	22		7	

NOTE- Cases Nos. 1, 2, 5, and 6, are cases shown as pending in last year's return.

K

Statement of the estimated Population of Hill Tipperah, 1876-77.

Caste or Tribes	Number of persons.	Number of men.	Number of women.	Number of boys.	Number of girls.
Population of the plains.					
Hindus	6,663	2,155	2,253	1,260	986
Mussulmans	19,504	5,743	6,278	4,223	3,260
Manipuris	7,187	2,030	2,174	1,750	1,533
Christians	119	37	42	20	20
Assamese and Gurkhas	80	30	19	16	15
Mughs	373	108	109	84	72
Tipperahs	1,809	590	605	344	270
Total	36,035	10,693	11,480	7,706	6,156
Population of the Hills.					
Tipperahs	31,751	Details not obtained			
Jamatiyas	5,104				
Norwatiyas	4,625				
Riangs	6,391				
Halms	4,955				
Kukis	2,898				
Total	55,724	.....	.....	.....	.....
GRANDTOTAL	91,759	.....	.....	.....	.....

C. W. Bolton,
Offg. Political Agent

ANNUAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT
OF THE POLITICAL AGENCY OF HILL TIPPERAH, FOR 1877-78

Dated Agartala, 29th July 1878.

From—C. W. BOLTON, ESQ., C.S., Offg. Political Agent, Hill Tipperah,

To—HORAGE A. COCKERELL, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

I have the honor to submit the Administration Report of this Agency for the year 1877-78

CHIEF EVENTS OF THE YEAR

2. Iwas appointed to officiate as Political Agent on the 2nd April 1877 in succession to Mr. Coxhead, joined my appointment on the 26th of the same month, and have since been in charge.

3. On the 24th October 1877 His Excellency the Viceroy was pleased to confer the title of Maharaja on the Chief of this State as a personal distinction. The Maharaja has been much gratified by this honor. The Commissioner of Dacca has received instructions to visit Agartala for the purpose of investing him with the title with the usual ceremony, and also of presenting to him one of the banners prepared for presentation to Native Princes on the occasion of the assumption of the title of Empress of India by Her Majesty the Queen. For various reasons, the Commissioner's visit could not take place during the period which has elapsed since the instructions of Government were received, and it has now been postponed to the beginning of the next cold season.

4. It will not be inappropriate to give here a brief account of the period during which the Maharaja has been ruler of this State. The Maharaja succeeded his brother Ishan Chandra Manik in 1862, in virtue of a deed said to have been executed by the latter on the day preceding his death, in which he appointed the present Maharaja Jubraj, and his own sons, Brajendra Chandra and Nabadwip Chandra, Bara Thakur and Karta respectively. This deed has given rise to much litigation in the past, and threatens to be the cause of further litigation shortly. Its genuineness has been challenged in two suits brought successively by Nil Kishen Thakur, the Maharajas half-brother, and Nabadwip Chandra, the last surviving son of Ishan Chandra Manik. In both suits, after very costly litigation, the claimants failed. Nabadwip Chandra has now obtained the permission of Government to institute a fresh suit, in which he intends claiming maintenance and a declaration of his right to succeed the Maharaja, as having been appointed Karta in the deed of 1862, and became de jure Jubraj in succession to his brother Brajendra Chandra.

5. The heavy litigation which the State has had to meet has produced very serious effects on its finances. Mismanagement of the estates situated in British territory has also contributed largely to aggravate the financial embarrassment. It may be said that for many years past the administration has been engaged in a ceaseless and unsuccessful struggle to make both ends meet. I shall revert to this matter further on.

6. Since the appointment of a Political Agent in 1871, the Maharaja has introduced several reforms into the State, for which he has received the recognition of Government. The administration of justice has been considerably improved, some advance has been made in education, and dispensaries have been established. Much, however, remains to be done, as will be observed in the course of this report, and the administration requires strengthening in order that the reforms already carried out may yield fully the benefits which they are capable of conferring on the people.

7. Returning to the events of the year, I have only to add that in July 1877 the Maharaja appointed Mr. Larminie, who was formerly in the Bengal Police, and subsequently acquired some experience in zemindari matters, to be the manager of his estates in British territory, and that Baboo Shambhu Chandra Mukherji, a former journalist of Calcutta, was also appointed to assist the Nazir Saheb at Agartala.

THE ADMINISTRATION

8. This State requires neither an elaborate system of government nor highly trained men at the head of affair The people give very little trouble; they have great respect for authority; they are not particularly quarrelsor among themselves; and, as a rule, they do not trouble the courts with heavy or serious litigation. The relatic

between the different classes of the community are simple, and give rise to no complications for the solution of which much wisdom or experience is required on the part of the officials. I have no doubt that an officer who is competent for the charge of a moderate sized subdivision in Bengal could administer the State satisfactorily. Owing to the extent of the State a larger staff would be required than that usually maintained in a Bengal subdivision, but the officers need not have qualifications superior to those of subdivisional officers subordinates. I regret to say, however, that notwithstanding the simple nature of their duties and the large staff at their disposal, those with whom the Government of the State rests are not equal to their duties. The subdivisional officers of Koilashar and Udaypur, and the judicial officers at Agartala, do their work conscientiously; but the superior executive officers at Agartala, who should exercise control over the whole administration and initiate reforms, and who can alone dispose of important matters, appear to be incapable, as well from want of ability and experience as from the difficulties of their position, not only of improving the administration, but even of carrying on the ordinary work efficiently. The principal executive officer is Thakur Dinobandhu Deb, a nephew of the Maharaja, who holds the hereditary title of Nazir Saheb. He had been for some years Magistrate of Agartala prior to his elevation to his present post on the dismissal of the late Dewan, Babu Nilmani Das. Although well meaning, his experience is very narrow, and he has to rely much on the advice of others, who generally have neither knowledge nor honesty enough to advice him properly, and who are apt to impose on his good nature. He is also unfortunate in his assistant, Baboo Shambhu Chandra Mukherji. It was thought that this gentleman would bring to his aid much experience, acquired in a wide field; but he has been practically of no advantage to the administration, as he is quite ignorant of business and destitute of the energy required in the holder of his office. It must be admitted, however, that he and the Nazir Saheb have had to content against difficulties which might have baffled abler men. These difficulties are due to the Maharaja himself.

9. The Maharaja appears never to have devoted as much attention to his affairs, whether in connection with the administration or with the management of his landed estates, as might have been expected from a man of his ability, education, and physical vigour. Of late he has shown still less inclination than formerly to attend to business, and I fear that this feeling will grow upon him. For some months past he has been staying in a renovated house at old Agartala, four miles from new Agartala, where he formerly resided, and where the courts and offices are located, and he appears to have given up his time mainly to amusements, much of which has involved expenditure which the State cannot afford. The superior officers find it extremely difficult to get business requiring his decision disposed of, and delay and confusion are consequently conspicuous both in the administration and in the zemindari work. There is another trait of the Maharajas character which causes serious michief: I allude to his excessive good nature, or weakness of character. The unscrupulous officials of Agartala of every grade, who form indeed the majority of the establishment, are not slow in trading on this failing.

When they are detected in some dishonest act, an appeal to the Maharajas pity saves them; when they wish to secure some employment for a needy relative, they apply to him and generally succeed, whether there be a vacancy or not; when they are in need of money, they seldom fail to obtain from him an order on his treasurer or zemindari manager, although the cash chests may be empty; and they do not scruple to use their influence with him to secure the dismissal of others who appointments they covet for themselves or their relatives. Under these circumstances, the well-intentioned officers of the State are paralysed. They dare not suggest reforms, because they are met on every side by the interests of men who, however low their social position, are able by their influence with the Maharaja to cause them injury. Those who have abilities enough to secure employment elsewhere will not stay in the Maharaja's service; and thus the service retains only a few incompetent honest men, while its other members are dishonest and intriguing men, who have not the slightest regard for the interests of the State apart from their own. This remark applies particularly to the establishment at head-quarters. The officers of the subdivisions are fortunately far enough from the intrigues of Agartala to escape their

consequences. With a personnel such as I have described, the administration is necessarily without vigour, without order, and full of corruption. Every thing is in fact in confusion, and every body does as he likes.

10. To all this must be added an evil as great, namely want of money. I have already alluded to litigation and the mismanagement of the Maharaja's estates as contributing to the financial embarrassment of the State. They have led to the contraction of a debt which probably exceeds five lakhs of rupees at this moment, while there has not as yet been such an improvement in the collections from the estates as to justify the hope that they will for the next few years yeild an income sufficient to provide for the present rate of expenditure and leave a surplus for the discharge of debt. Moreover, the Maharaja is threatened with fresh litigation of a costly nature, and he should also make some provision for his numerous and growing family. The necessity for economy is therefore urgent. Without it, indeed I do not see how the Maharaja can continue for many years longer to retain his estates or carry on his administration. Unless expenditure is reduced fresh debt must be constantly incurred, and it can only be incurred on more disadvantageous terms as the liabilities increase. There is wide room for economy. The establishments of the Maharaja are far larger than necessary, there being numbers of men who draw allowances without doing work, and who should be got rid of. An effective control of expenditure incurred by subordinates would also cause much saving. Again, the Maharajas personal expenditure should be contracted. In last years report he received some credit for his efforts in this direction. I cannot write favourably on the subject on this occasion. He has for some time past been wasting a great deal of money that would have been more properly spent in paying the salaries of the working members of the establishment. The money is wasted on wrestlers, musicians, Mohamedan hakims, kobirajes, and other persons whose services are not required by the State, but who are thrust into well-paid appointments to gratify favourites. I am convinced that the revenue of the State would be quite sufficient for the maintenance of an effective body of public servants, the execution of public works, and the payment of an allowance of Rupees 20,000 or Rupees 30,000 annually to the Maharaja. With this sum and the surplus revenue of the estates he ought to have an income adequate for himself and his family. As a fact, however, under the present system the revenues of the State and the zemindaris cannot meet the expenditure. The salaries of officials are consequently paid very irregularly, improvements involving the expenditure of money cannot be undertaken, and debt is accumulating.

11. I have frequently talked to the Maharaja and the Nazir Saheb on the abuses which I have just described, and advised economy and reform, but my advice has produced no effect, as neither the Maharaja nor the Nazir Saheb possesses sufficient strength of mind in the one case to propose, and in the other to sanction, the requisite changes. The Political Agents interference being restricted to advice, it is obviously impossible for him to get measures of improvement carried out unless his advice is not only accepted, but also acted upon. I have found great readiness to admit, quite sincerely I believe, the soundness of my suggestions, but generally incapacity to act in accordance with them. A remarkable example occurred quite recently. In consequence of my repeated advice that steps should be taken to reduce expenditure, the Maharaja directed two of his best officers to draw up and submit proposals of reductions to him. These officers set themselves to work zealously, but after frequent consultations with the Maharaja for nearly three months their labours have ended without results, I am convinced that officers entirely dependent on the Maharaja will never succeed in purifying and strengthening the administration. They cannot afford to be courageous and pertinacious in pressing him to sanction measures, their advocacy of which would imperil their only means of livelihood. Nor is it probable that this State will be able under the present regime to secure the services of a private individual of independent means and high character for the general control of the administration. The low intrigues of Agartala deter such men from entering the Maharajas service. Only among Government servants of a superior class, who would have their Government appointments to fall back upon in case the Maharaja wishes to dispense with their services, could

be found the experience, energy, honesty, and independence of character required for the removal of the abuses now rampant. The officer at the head of the administration should be able to exercise such an influence over the Maharaja as not only to convince him of the necessity of the measures which he proposes, but also to insist on his sanctioning them. Such an officer could be found among the Native Deputy Magistrates of the higher grades. A man of inferior official position would most probably be wanting in one or more of the indispensable qualifications, as was the case with Baboo Nilmani Das, the late Dewan.

COLD WEATHER TOUR.

12. My cold weather tour occupied 80 days. During this period I visited every part of the State, except the hills far in the interior, explorations of which would have been attended with no advantage. In December I was in the Koilashar subdivision, inspected the frontier posts at Koilashar, Pherua Dharmanagar, and Kamalpur; selected sites for stockades at the latter places in consultation with the Deputy Superintendent; examined the school at Koilashar, and visited some hill villages inhabited by Kukis and Tipperahs. I saw the largest Kuki village of the State, belonging to Rangbhum Raja, a minor, and also had an interview with another influential Kuki Raja, who has received from the Maharaja the high-sounding title of Jang Bahadur, and several Kuki headmen. In January I spent some days in the plain country east of Agartala, and started for a tour in the southern and central parts of the State. On my way to the Udaypur subdivision I visited the important pergunnah of Bisalghar, and then proceeded through the Maharajas estates in thana Changalnaya, in the district of Noakholly, to Amlighat, on the Fenny River, where the tolls on forest produce coming down that river are collected. Thence I went to Chittagong to meet the Deputy Commissioner of the Hill Tracts for the purpose of discussing frontier matters in accordance with the instructions of Government contained in No. 1269, dated the 28th March 1877.

On my way back I proceeded along the greater part of the boundaries of this State and thana Chagalnaya and saw much of the plain lands in that quarter, and brought my tour to a close with a trip up the Goomtee, during which I inspected Sonaumra, where the Udaypur Subdivisional Court is now held, Udaypur and Eksureh. At Udaypur and Eksureh there are military posts.

13. My travels during the cold weather have enabled me to acquire much information regarding the resources of the State, the condition of the people, and the work of the different departments of the administration, which I could not have obtained by inquiries at Agartala. They brought to light several abuses and defects, regarding which I subsequently communicated with the Maharaja. The most important of these will be mentioned when I speak of the revenue system of the State. It is much to be desired that the superior officers at Agartala should occasionally make a tour throughout the State. Their ignorance of the country beyond a very short radius from Agartala is astounding, and leads them into absurd errors. They never travel beyond a few miles of Agartala, and, in fact, know less of the State than the Political Agent.

THE COUNTRY AND THE PEOPLE.

14. A map of the State and portions of the adjoining British districts is annexed to this report, in which information is given on various subjects regarding which the maps of the Survey Department are silent, and I trust that it will be found useful for reference. The limits of the subdivisions and police stations, the sites of military posts, the positions and extent of the valleys or plain lands which are actually cultivated or may be brought under cultivation, places where valuable timber is found, and those where kheddah operations are generally carried on, and, finally, the Maharajas estates in British territory, have been indicated. To avoid confusing details only the principal ranges of hills have been inserted, and the sites of hill villages have been

the latest returns 91,579,

thus giving a proportion of 24 persons to the square mile. There is, however, a large tract of country, as the map shows, in which not a single inhabitant is to be found. The interior of the country is a network of hills covered throughout the rear with dense jungle consisting of bamboos, cane, grass, creepers, and brushwood. The principal hill ranges run north and south, but throw out branches here and there to the east and west. Between them and the branches there are numbers of lower hills and swampy valleys. On these low hills, as a rule, the hill tribes have their villages or baries, and grow their crops. The villages are connected with one another and the plain country by narrow paths. Except along these paths, or others cut for the occasion, it is impossible to travel through the interior of the country. In some parts rivers afford access to places situated on their banks. They are, however, seldom navigable against stream during the rainy season owing to the rapidity of their currents. The hill paths also are at that season so choked with weeds and intersected by swamps that they can be used only by the hillmen, who are thoroughly accustomed to them.

16. It may be said, therefore, that for half the year the interior of the State is inaccessible to people residing in the plains, while during the remaining half access is by no means easy. On the other hand, the portions of the State adjoining the districts of Sylhet, Tipperah, and Noakholly are similar to the nearest parts of those districts. They contain level and fertile valleys of various areas, some of which are cultivated, while others remain covered with jungle and swamp, but bear evidence, from remains of tanks found in them, that they were formerly under cultivation. The extensionof cultivation in these valleys is the most promising means of increasing the prosperity of the State. If well opened up, they would probably be able to support a population five times larger than the present population of the plains, and yield much wealth in agricultural produce. The principal of these valleys already contain the most flourishing sections of the population. They include the largest villages of the State, namely, Koilashar, Kamalpoor, Agartala, Bisalghar, Udaypur, and Bilonia. In the Koilashar subdivision, owing to the exertions of the Deputy Superintendent and the confidence which he has won, many families from the district of Sylhet have of late years taken leases of waste lands, and the number of new settlers is likely to increase. In other parts there has been less immigration from British territory owing to a feeling of distrust of the Hill Tipperah authorities, for which there is, however, less cause now than in former days. The terms on which leases of waste lands are granted by this State are very favourale to the lessees, and would attract numbers of immigrants but for this distrust. The Maharaja on one occasion mentioned to me what he conceived to be the principal cause of the present thinness of the population in the valleys. He said that it was due to our Government; for in the days of the Mussulman rule bad government drove numbes of people into this State, while now our good government has taken them back from him. The presence of a Government officer at Agartala has, however, already had a great effect in inducing people to settle in the State, and I have no doubt that in a few years the distrust of the authorities now prevalent will have died away. The immigrants will come, as therefore, from the neighbouring part of British territory, the climate of which is similar to that of the adjoining valleys of Hill Tipperah. The country is not suited for the people of Western Bengal and Behar.

17. The State possesses another valuable resource in the vast number of elevations suitable for the cultivation of tea found on the northern, western, and southern borders. Similar ground near the borders within the district of Sylhet is already being used for tea gardens, and capitalists would doubtless be willing to extend their operations to Hill Tipperah if they were offered fair terms and perfect security for their rights. The Maharaja and his advisers are, however, afraid of complications being caused by the settlement of Europeans within his territory, and as yet no Native capitalist has come forward. If he were possessed of capital, he might himself venture on tea-planting. The Deputy Superintendent of Koilashar some time ago offered to take the management of a tea garden in addition to his other duties, but the project fell through for want of funds. If any such proof were required, the existence of a natural collection of indigenous tea bushes covering a considerable area some distance of the Manu river might be mentioned as demonstrating the suitability of the country about

Koilashar for tea-planting. From these bushes the Deputy Superintendent collected several maunds of seeds a year ago, which he sold for Rupees 500 to a planter of Sylhet.

18. As regards the interior of the State, inhabited by the hill tribes, there appears to be little ground for believing that it will be gradually opened up and made to contribute more to the prosperity of the country, except as a producer of forest produce, or possibly of undiscovered mineral wealth within a not remote future, just as the unoccupied plain country is likely to be. The hills are suited only for the occupation of the tribes whose home they have been for centuries. There are also many vast valleys in the interior, which are now covered with swamp and jungle, but remote, separated from the valleys near the British borders by hills and jungle, and unhealthy; they will not attract immigrants. The interior will, therefore, remain the exclusive domain of the hill tribes. But the rooted disinclination of these tribes to produce crops in excess of their immediate wants, their unexpanding numbers, and their peculiar agricultural system, which requires that a vast hill area should continually remain waste, so as to supply fresh ground as the exhausted hills are periodically abandoned, prevent the increase of cultivation. The material condition of these tribes has probably undergone no change for centuries, and it is likely to remain as at present for a considerable time to come. Their most important crop commercially is cotton. It brings them a good deal of money, which is soon spent, but no permanent addition to their prosperity.

19. The different races inhabiting this State have been described in previous reports, and it is not necessary to notice the peculiarities of their manners and customs here. My remarks will be confined to a brief account of their social condition. The population is divisible into two groups,—one comprising the tribes inhabiting the hills, and the other the people of the plains. The hill tribes consist of Tiperahs, Chakmas, Kukis and Hallams. They are characterized by a cheerful and honest disposition, but also by staunch conservation in their mode of life, improvidence, uncleanliness, and fondness for spirits. They distrust changes which are likely to benefit them. Having no savings, they are obliged to resort to the money-lender or the Government for aid whenever the slightest failure of their crops occurs; and their fondness for spirits and uncleanly habits undermine their physique and keep down their numbers. The physical features of the country which they inhabit have undoubtedly tended to develop these unpleasant characteristics. They are practically cut off from the more advanced population of the plains, are unaffected by changes going on among the latter, and have no inducement for emulating them, while persons unaccustomed to their hills cannot live in the midst of them for their improvement. The obstacles in the way of their advancement in civilization are thus very great, and are not likely to be removed so long as they continue to reside in the hills.

20. A good deal, however, might be done to improve the personal comfort of the hill people, by merely inducing them to give up excessive drinking and uncleanly habits. This change it would be possible for officials to achieve by presistent efforts, but Hill Tipperah does not possess officials of the requisite stamp. The habit of drinking is indeed part of the religious worship of the tribes, but it may be very considerably curtailed without affecting their religious rites. Its effects are too obvious to need description. The dirty habits of the people are also productive of much mischief. The coarseness of their food, which embraces putrified fish and flesh, their disregard of bodily cleanliness, and the accumulation of dirt in their villages, under their very houses, give rise to skin diseases and much mortality, especially among the young. The Kukis are particularly conspicuous in this respect. It is probable that 75 per cent of them are constantly suffering from skin diseases, varying from simple eruptions to leprosy.

21. The introduction of education among the hill tribes is well nigh hopeless for two reasons,—first, they themselves view it with no favour. They require the labour of their children either to attend to their homes while they are absent in their jooms, which are generally at some distance from their villages, or to assist in clearing and cultivating the jooms, and they complain that education tends to make their children become Baboos and

averse to the rough work of the jooms;—secondly, as they possess no written language, they can only be educated through the medium of Bengali; and Bengali teachers could not be induced to reside in the hills, except perhaps at rates of salary which the State cannot afford. This difficulty may be got over by training some young men of their own tribes at Agartala and sending them into the hills to open schools, but the objection of the people to relieve their children from labour at home or in the jooms will probably keep the schools empty. This appears to have been the experience of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, where primary education in the hills makes no progress, except it may be among the Mughs, who have had indigenous schools for a very long period. In the Sonthal Pergunnahs, although the language has no written character of its own, the Missionaries are teaching it though the Roman or Bengali character. I have endeavoured to induce some of the Thakurs of Agartala to follow this excellent example and draw up a grammar of the Tipperah language, which is used by the majority of the hill people, and some simple text-books in the Bengali character for the use of schools. Enterprise of this nature, however, is above their intelligence or their conception of public utility, and nothing has been done. Instruction in mechanical work is not likely to be much appreciated by the hill tribes. The only mechanics who are wanted and could find profitable work in the hills are blacksmiths. The manufacture of daos, axes, and reaping hooks would give employment for a good many men of this class. All other work which is done elsewhere by skilled artisans the hillmen can do themselves, and for the most part with no other tool than the dao.

22. Very little need be said of the group of races inhabiting the plains. It consists chiefly of Bengali-Mussulmans, who closely resemble their brethren in British territory close by. The Manipuris form a very promising body of settlers. They are thrifty, have better ideas of comfort than the other races of this State, are fond of dancing and singing and other harmless amusements, and show no propensity for litigation. They appear also to be anxious to educate their children, who already form a large portion of the pupil of the schools. On the whole, the people of the plains are fairly well off, and may be expected to progress nearly simultaneously with the inhabitants of the adjoining British territory. In one respect, however, this State lies under a disadvantge. It does not contain a single capitalist by whose private enterprise the resources of the country might be rapidly developed. The Maharaja is the only large owner of property, but his present income is inadequate for his expenditure. There is but one wealthy private individual, a Hindustani, but his capital is mainly employed in British territory.

THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS

23. In the year under report there was a deficiency of rainfall in the hills in the southern part of the State during the critical period in the growth of the joom crops. Later in the rainy season heavy floods swamped the valleys and caused much damage to the crops, particularly at Koilashar and along the Goomtee river. These floods appear to be of annual occurrence, varying only in volume.

The rainfall varies considerably from year to year. The following statement shows the rainfall at Agartala for the last three years from May of one year to April of the next, which is the period prescribed for the annual retrun submitted to Government :—

Months	Year			Months	Year		
	1875-76	1876-77	1877-78		1875-76	1876-77	1877-78
May	13.42	11.52	13.62	November	0.00	3.30	1.21
June	22.77	13.32	6.23	December	0.00	0.00	0.00
July	20.03	10.20	14.51	January	0.00	1.98	0.62
August	23.06	16.44	19.13	February	0.90	2.21	1.08
September	3.86	10.19	9.78	March	2.92	8.52	4.27
October	2.57	2.76	3.29	April	2.93	3.39	4.11
				Total	92.52	84.39	77.85

24. As just mentioned, both the joom and the plain crops were injured by the weather. In the jooms the only food crops produced are aus rice, til, and a few vegetables. The outturn was les than the average. These crops are never sufficient for the consumption of the hill people, and a large importation of rice goes on, the hill people paying for their imports with the proceeds of their cotton crop or of forests produce sold by them. The cotton crop of the year was not a good one, and prices were not remunerative. I obtained some seed of Egyptian and American cotton during the year for the purpose of endeavouring to introduce in the hills a finer variety than the indigenous cotton which they now produce. The seeds were planted, but the plants did not bear healthily. The experiment was, however, made on bad soil, and I have recently obtained fresh seeds of the Hinghanghaut and an up-country variety, which have been sown in jooms. If these varieties can be grown here, the superior quality of the staple would add considerably to the revenue which the people annually derive from the sale of their cotton.

The crops grown in the plains are aman and aus rice, maiza, mustard, sugar-cane, chillies, and tobacco. The soil is well suited for these crops. Sugar-cane, chillies, and tobacco might be more largely cultivated, but the people are not keen on production for the sake of trade.

PRICES OF FOOD AND LABOUR.

25. Prices of food were very high during the year, except the first three months. The rice crop was not an abundant one, and importation was probably checked by the great demand for Bengal rice for exportation to Madras. In the hills of the south the partial failure of the joom crops caused much distress, and rice was imported from the district of Noakholly and distributed to the people by the authorities, partly free of cost, and partly at cheap rates. The people are still badly off, and only a good outturn of the present seasons crop will enable them to do without aid from the Maharaja.

The following is a statement of the prices of common rice during the last three years, from May of one year to April of the next. There is no record of the prices of other food-grains, except wheat, which is only consumed by some up-country residents. The prices of a portion of 1875-76 were affected by damage done by flood :

Month	Year					
	1875-76		1876-77		1877-78	
	s.	c	s	c	s	c
May	24	0	16	0	28	0
June	24	0	16	0	22	0
July	18	0	19	0	22	0
August	17	0	22	0	20	0
September	16	0	32	0	18	0
October	18	0	35	0	15	0
November	18	0	32	0	19	0
December	17	11	32	0	23	0
January	20	0	32	0	19	0
February	20	0	24	0	17	0
March	19	0	25	0	15	8
April	18	0	28	0	16	0

26. Skilled workmen are rare in the State, and they are invariably temporary residents, who come from British territory. Agaricultural labourers are also few in number, as most of the agricultural people cultivate their own fields and are able to produce enough food for themselves without labouring for others. It was probably the difficulty of obtaining free labour which caused the administration to make it one of the conditions of leases of land that the lessees should be bound to give their service, when called upon by the authorities, at the usual

rates of wages. This condition gave rise to much discontent, was liable to abuse by the officials, and also deterred strangers from taking leases. The Nazir Saheb informs me that the has was abolished it, and intends in future to do the work, which was formerly imposed on the cultivators, by means of coolies receiving fixed wages whom he has imported from Dacca. The local rates of wages for carpenters and blackmiths very from Rupees 9 to Rupees 12, and for agricultural labourers from Rupees 6 to Rupees 6-8 per mensem. In the hills the old system if impressment must be maintained , there being no labour available, except amongst the hill tribes, who do not willingly serve for hire.

TRADE

27. The traders of Hill Tipperah are, with scarcely a single exception, British subjects of the neighbouring districts, who keep up shops in the bazars, import goods for sale, make advances to the people, and export cotton and forest produce, which they receive from the hill-people in payment of advances of cash or rice. On certain days of the week markets are held in the principal villages, and the cultivating classes resort to them to sell produce and purchase what they require for their own consumption until the next market day. Some vexatious restrictions on the freedom of trade came to my notice during the year, and I advised that they should be removed. They are mainly due to the fiscal system current, which throws much power into the hands of the farmers of the revenue, and leads them to attempt to regulate trade for their own benefit. One restriction owed its origin probably to the selfishness of the officials and advisers of the Government at Agartala. It consisted of a perpetual prohibition of the exportation of rice from Agartala and its neighbourhood, except under a special permit. Importation continued free. The prohibition was grossly unjust to the cultivators, as it tended to keep prices down for a much longer period than would have been the case if they had liberty to take their produce to other markets, while as soon as prices rose to such a point above those prevailing in the neighbouring markets of the district of Tipperah as to make importation profitable, imported rice competed with their stocks and, by checking the further rise of prices, deprived them of the chance of making higher profits to compensate for the previous low prices. The servants and dependants of the Maharaja profited by the prohibition. They obtained rice cheap at the expense of the cultivators, and some who could secure permits occasionally exported on their own account as a speculation. The professed defence of this restriction on trade was that it afforded a guard against scarcity. Its effectiveness for this purpose was very questionable; and at any rate there was no excuse for maintaining the restriction in good as well bad years. I pointed out to the Maharaja the injustice which was being done to the ryots, and the prohibition has been withdrawn.

REVENUE

28. The fiscal system of the State appears to me to be bad in its leading principle of farming out the different sources of revenue. It is, in fact, a discreditable admission on the part of Government that it cannot discharge one of its chief functions and must invoke the aid of individuals. If each farmer had under his management no more than he could individually look after, it might be said that he could collect his own share of the revenue more thoroughly than the Government, but the most important farms are in the hands of two up-country men, who are quite illiterate and imperfectly understand Bengali. What these men can do it is certainly not too much to expect that the government of the state should be able to do. The farms expose the people to a great deal of unjust treatment at the hands of the farmers men, and compel them to pay much more in the way of taxation than the Government requires or gets. If they were replaced by direct management, the Government could either receive what now constitutes the profits of the farmers, or relieve the people of this charge. The farms would be less open to objection if the profits they yielded remained in the state, or if they gave some of the Thakurs who are dependant on the Maharaja a means of obtaining an income and occupation. But although farms are frequently granted to Thakurs, their first thought is to sublet to another, and, as a rule, the profits are carried away by people residing in British territory. The careless way in which the farms are given is also

evidenced by the frequent incapacity of the farmers to manage them, and their ability to sublet them at a profit, which, of course, would have been secured by the Government if the farm had been granted at its proper value. In some cases farms are granted on low terms to some members or connections of the Maharajas family for the express purpose of enabling them to make a profit by subletting them. It would be preferable in these cases to pay a certain sum at once to the person whom it is intended to favour than to place a farm at his disposal. The persons who obtain farms in this way are Tipperahs or Munipuris, and they fall victims speedily to their Bengali servants, thus losing the greater part of the profit they are expected to make.

29. These farms have formed the subject of much conversation between the Maharaja, his principal officers, and myself. I have endeavoured to convince them of the superior advantages of direct management. It is probable that the farming system would have been abandoned as the farms expired, but for the fear that the present head officers would not be able to control the persons appointed for the collection of the revenue, and for the convenience of retaining one or two large farmers from whom advances of money can be obtained on an emergency. The incapacity of the present administration to exercise proper control over the revenue officers who might be appointed cannot unfortunately be doubted, and for this reason I am constrained to admit that it would be unsafe to undertake direct management at once. As for the convenience of getting advances from the large farmers, it is an evil rather than a benefit, for it leads sometimes to the realization and expenditure of a portion of the revenue before it is due. Quite recently a portion of next years revenue has been received in advance in this manner. Such advances tend to increase the power of the farmers, which is far from desirable under a weak administration.

30. When on tour I found that the principal farmers already exercise a great deal too much power. They collect the taxes on cotton and oilseed in the whole State and tolls on forest produce at many stations. At one place the hillmen complained to me that the farmers men limited the quantity of cotton which they might bring to the tax collecting stations at one time, compelled them to buy their daos only from blacksmiths authorized by the farmer to sell these implements, and exacted a portion of the vegetables which they brought down for sale. I mentioned the matter to the Nazir Saheb, and he informs me that he has prohibited the continuance of these abuscs.

31. Another village also complained that the shop-keepers of Koilashar, in combination with the farmers servants, took a certain portain of each maund of cotton brought to the bazar, in addition to the quantity payable on account of the tax, as contributions for several purposes for which the hill-people were neither willing nor legally obliged to contribute. The Deputy Superintendent made an inquiry, and the result was that the shopkeepers were compelled to give up some maunds of cotton which they had improperly taken.

32. Another objectionable feature in the fiscal system of the State is the large number of petty taxes imposed on the people. I drew attention to some of these taxes, for which farms were given to individuals, in the last Annual report. In the Resolution on that report the Lieutenant-Governots disapproval of these taxes was expressed, and I was directed to impress upon the Maharaja their objectionable character. I have repeatedly spoken and written to the Maharaja and the Nazir Saheb on this subject, and was at first given to understand that the taxes would be at once abolished. I have, however, been surprised to hear at the last moment that they are still maintained, and it will be seen that they appear in the revenue statement accompanying this report. One tax alone, that on spinning-wheels, is not shown separately in the statement, but it is still in existance. The only defence (if such it may be called) of these taxes that I have heard here is that they have been levied for generations. Against such an argument, the exposure of their absurdity, of their impolicy, and of the hardships which they cause to the people, has as yet had no effect. The reluctance to abolish these taxes is due also to a great extent to the influence of the farmers whom they benefit and the ignorance of the officers at the head of the administration, because they never travel in the interior, of the dissatisfaction which they creat among

the people. The higher officers think that they have done a clever stroke of business when they have, by the grant of a farm, added a paltry sum to the revenue; but they never reflect at what cost to the people the small increase of revenue has been secured. The facility with which farms can be obtained by those who possess some influence in the State explains the multiplicity of the farms in existence and the ridiculous character of some of them. Besides those appearing in the revenue statement farms have been granted for collecting wild honey, for working rubber trees, none of which have as yet been discovered by the farmer, and for receiving taxes of a few pice on each maina (bird) and each mat sold in the bazars.

33. The usual revenue statement for the year is annexed to this report. The amounts shown against many of the heads of revenue include arrears collected during the year as well as collections of the current demand. This was also the case in the previous years return. The total revemue receipts of each year are shown in both returns. In comparing the amounts received from the various sources of revenue in differrent years, allowance must be made for the fluctuations due to the farming system. Under that system the revenue is dependent not only on the course of trade and the circumstances of the people, but also on changes resulting from favour or competition amongst bidders for farms, such as the renewal of a lease on higher or lower terms, or the remission of a portion of a farmers liability. Fluctuations in the revenue received from the farmers seldom afford an index of the circumstances of the people, as unknown portions of the amounts realized from the people retained by the farmers for their profits. The total revenue of the year was Rupees 1,99,549, against Rupees 1,82,632 for the previous year, showing an increase of Rupees 16,917. The increase in due mainly to larger receipts on account of the tolls levied on forest produce and the taxes on cotton and oilseed. In other branches there has been either a slight increase or a decrease, which in one or two cases is considerable. I have not received from the administration explanations of the increase or decrease under the different heads, except in two cases, but I have obtained information of the present annual demand under the three most important heads, which shows how much the receipts have exceeded or fallen below the current demand in these cases, and in the following analysis of the statment have offered explanations under some heads which appear tome to account partly for the variations in the amounts received during the last two years.

LAND REVENUE FROM THE PLAIN LANDS.

34. The land revenue is collected either directly from the cultivators and talookdars or from farmers of mehals. The system of land tenure is very simple. The Maharaja is the zemindar. Between him and the cultivators only three kinds of tenures can be established; a farm (izara) for the collection of rent for a term of years, a talook (miyadi talook) with a rental subject to revision after fixed periods, and a permanent talook (quimi talook) the rental of which is fixed for ever. The talooks may be resumed on failure to pay the revenue. Their holders are entitled to make their own settlements with the cultivators. The latter hold their lands only under leases for a term of years, and cannot acquire rights of occupancy. The Maharaja would do well to introduce the provisions of the law of Bengal regarding occupancy rights into the State. I have explained to the Nazir Saheb the advantages likely to accrue from the measure. The rates of rent appear to be fair. They were slightly raised recently in the neighbourhood of Agartala. The terms on which leases of waste land are granted by the administration are such as to attract settlers who might not otherwise object to take up their abode in the State. In some of the farmed estates, however, the farmers are looked upon with distrust, and strangers are unwilling to take leases under them. A notable instance is the large farm of the lands bordering on the Chagalnaya thana. I am told by the Maharajas own officers that there would be a large influx of settlers in those parts, but for the arbitrary proceedings of the farmer. The actual cultivators partly reside in this State and partly in British territory. Direct management by the administration would be better in every respect than the present system. I have already spoken of the great extent of plain lands which remain uncultivated. Some of the Thakurs are taking portions of such lands and inviting settlers from British territory. Their example might well be

followed by other Thakurs, who are content to be useless pensioners. It would, in fact, be a wise measure to compel these men to cultivate grants of waste land for their support. The revenue of the year was Rupees 774 in excess of that of the previous year. The increase is partly due to a slight enhancement of rents in the neighbourhood of Agartala. The annual demand for the whole State is Rupees 32,715. The amount realized was Rupees 32,195.

FAMILY TAX IN THE HILLS.

This tax is asscssed on each family of the hill tribes. The poorest families are exempted. The rates are not uniform. In the Udaypur subdivision they are Rupees 8,10 and Rupees 6-4, and in the rest of the State Rupees 1-12 and Rupees 3-8. The assessment for each village is made in consultation with the headman, and collected through him by the Maharajas officers. The amount realized during the year was Rupees 20,541, as compared with Rupees 25,415 for the previous year, there being thus a decrease of Rupees 4,874. The decrease is due to the prevalence of distress in the south during a portion of the year, and the emigration of many families in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The constant migrations of hill people between this State and the Chittagong Hill Tracts affect the collections annually, causing an increase or decrease according to the direction in which the migration sets. The Maharaja has also recently taken a step which, I fear, will cause loss of revenue under this head in future. He has granted a farm of a portion of the tax to the Jubraj. The farm has been named the Julai Mehal, and embraces no defined portion of the hills, but is broadly limited to the south of the Goomtee, and to the tax payable by all families who come into the State from the Chittagone Hill Tracts. No payment is to be made to the State for some years, apparently as an inducement to the farmer to make small demands on the new settlers. This arrangement has, however, tempted many of the old inhabitants of the State, who were paying the full tax direct to the administration, to cross for a few months into the Hill Tracts, and then returning to their old homes attach themselves to the Julai Mehal as new settlers, and pay only the light assessment of the Jubraj. Some have not even taken the trouble of leaving their homes for a time, but have merely proclaimed themselves to be within the Julai Mehal, and refused to pay the tax demanded by the officers of the administration. The officers dare not make inquiries or remonstrances which might be deemed hostile to the interests of the Jubraj, and are thus compelled to relinquish the collection of portions of the tax. The farm is causing confusion and loss, and its objectionable character is undeniable.

FOREST PRODUCE

The revenue under this head is derived from tolls on timber, bamboos, thatching grass, and other forest produce brought down the rivers, or taken by land, into British territory. Every stream on which these articles can be floated is provided with a station near the British border. The stations are all farmed out. The number of farmers is large, but several of the principal stations are in the hands of a single farmer. The tolls on forest produce taken overland are collected either by the police or farmers. In the former case passes for a whole year are granted to people who collect forest produce for a fixed payment. The farmers make their own arrangements. The system of granting passes is undoubtedly the best way of collecting the dues on forest produce taken overland. It should be adopted throughout the State. Passes could be granted at the beginning of each year, and forest rangers appointed for the prevention of fraud by persons having no pass. Some system of forest conservancy is needed. I am aware of only one restriction on the cutting of timber. It refers to the small sal forest found near Udaypur, which the Maharaja is wisely endeavouring to preserve. Plantations of sal might be profitably established in that neighbourhood. The supply of bamboos and grass is inexhaustible, but good timber is getting scarece in accessible places. The hill people derive a large share of their annual income from the sale of forest produce. The revenue from tolls is paid entirely by residents of British territory. During the year it amounted to Rupees 38,104. It was Rupees 22,955 for the previous year. There was thus an increase of no less than Rupees 15,149. The present annual demand is Rupees 43,857. It would appear, therefore, that

notwithstanding the large increase over the previous years collections, the collections of the year were Rupees 5,753 short of the current demand. I am informed that the increase is due partly to the granting of some leases at an enhanced rental, and partly to the realization of arrears. The balance of Rupees 5,753 has been realized since the close of the year.

FENNY GHAUT

Under this head is shown the ten annas share of the revenue derived from tools on forest produce taken down the Fenny river. The toll station is at Amlighaut, and under the management of the Government. The Maharaja reveives ten annas, and the Government the remainder of the revenue. There was a fall of Rupees 3,625 in the revenue of the year compared with that of the previous year. There is reason to believe that the decrease was mainly due to the high rates of toll fixed by the Forest Department under whose management the tolls were. The great loss of life in Noakholly during the cyclone of October 1876 may have also tended to diminish the receipts by reducing the demand for forest produce. The toll station has now been transferred to the contorl of the Deputy Commissioner of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and the rate of toll fixed at 10 per cent. ad valorem.

COTTON, INCLUDING TIL

This is the most important branch of the revenue. It is derived from a tax of Rupees 1-8, 1-4, 1-6, or 1-14 in different localities on each maund of cotton, and annas 6, 12, 13, and 14 on each maund of oilseed (til) exported from the hills. The tax appears to me to be inequitable in its incidence, and to be levied in a manner which aggravates considerably its pressure on the income of the hill people. If the amount of taxation raised from the hill people be compared with that raised from the inhabitants of the plains, it will be seen that the former is much in excess of the latter. Omitting the many petty taxes levied from them, the hill people have to pay the family tax and the taxes on cotton and oilseed, which together yielded Rupees 76,166 during the year. The only important direct tax, corresponding to these taxes of the hill people, which was paid by the people of the plains during the same year, was the land revenue, amounting to Rupees 32,195. The hill people thus contributed to the revenue more than double the amount received from the people of the plains. They are, it is true, more numerous than the latter, but not in the proportion of more than two to one. When the arduousness of their method of cultivation and their poverty are further considered, the unfairness with which they are treated in the matter of taxation becomes very glaring. Moreover, the system of collecting the cotton and oilseed taxes prevalent compels them to part with their produce at lower prices than they could obtain if they were not practically prevented from selling their stocks in the most favorable markets. Having, as a rule, no ready money for the payment of the taxes at the collecting stations, they are compelled to sell to the few traders located near the stations on condition that the taxes are paid by the traders. Under these circumstances, the prices with which they must content themselves are generally lower than those which they might obtain by going to a market a short distance further. If these taxes cannot be remitted, they would be felt less by the people ; if they were amalgamated with the family tax, a proportionately, higher assessment being made on each family, one tax would thus be substituted for three. The profits of the former would be no longer an additional charge on the people, and the producers of cotton and oilseed would be free to choose their markets. I apprehend that this reform, if properly carried out, would be of immense benefit to the hill people. The present annual amount payable by the farmer on account of the cotton and oilseed taxes is Rupees 46,350. The amount realized during the year was Rupees 55,625, being Rupees 9,254 in excess of the previous years revenue. I am informed that the excess represents arrears collected. The farmers reported that they levied the taxes on 28,950 maunds of cotton and 11,043 maunds of oilseed. The yield of the cotton crop is said to have been below the average, and the prices obtained were lower than in the previous year. There was, no doubt, a falling off both in the outturn and in prices ; but the farmers figures appear to be somewhat below the mark. If they are accepted, however, and Rupees 3 be taken as the net price reveived for each maund, it will be found that the hill tribes realized

Rupees 86,850 for their cotton crop during the year. Similarly, estimating the net price at Rupee 1-8 per maund, their oilseed crop brought them Rupees 16,564; the total, Rupees 1,03,414, is small, considering the revenue raised.

SHARE OF ELEPHANTS CAPTURED

The State is divided into six portions for the purpose of catching wild elephants, each portion being leased separately. Kheddahs are seldom established in every portion in the same year. I have indicated on the map accompanying this report the places where kheddahs are generally worked with the most favourable results. During the year elephants were caught east of Bilonia, in what is known as the Khandal hunting-ground, near the Doomra Falls on the Goomtee, and near the junction of the Munnoo and Deo rivers. The Khandal ground was rented for the season by Mr. Larminie. He also captured elephants near the Doomra Falls by means of a pung, that is, a stockade enclosing a salt lick frequented by elephants, with gates at each end, which are closed as soon as a herd has entered the stockade. He captured at both places 67 elephants. The Munnoo hunting-ground was let to a number of people. The captures amounted to 110. Not less than 25 of the animals died. The large mortality was due to a great extent to the inadequate means of the farmers to bring the elephants seeedily into the plains. The rent paid by Mr. Larminie was one-eight of the value of the elephants caught, and by the other lessees one-fourth and one-half. The rates of one-fourth and one-eighth appear to have been very low. This and low prices account for the decrease in the revenue compared with the previous years receipts. The amount of rent charged depends frequently on the favor of the Maharaja. Mr. Larminie has a lease of the hunting-ground about Eksureh, called the Omersagar tract, for five years, one year of which has expired. Apart from variations in the rental paid by the lessees, the revenue derived from elephants is liable to constant changes, owing to uncertainty attending the working of kheddahs. The captures vary greatly from year to year, and are frequently due to mere luck. Last years revenue was Rupees 20,391, being Rupees 2,324 less than the previous years.

TOTA MEHAL, GURJAN MEHAL, THARISHA MEHAL AND CHUNASHIKAR MEHAL

These are farms for the collection of very small taxes on parrots, gurjan oil, mustard-seed, and a peculiar kind of sweetmeat used by women. Their objectionable character was commented upon in last years report, and I have already referred to them in this report. They have yielded only Rupees 250.

BUFFALO MEHAL

The revenue under this head is obtained by a tax of Rupee 1 per annum on each full-grown buffalo and eight annas on each calf brought into the State to graze by residents of British territory. There was an increase of Rupees 464 during the year, due to more careful enforcement of the tax. The tax is a fair one, but an error has been lately committed in transferring its collection in some parts from officials to farmers.

KHUTGARI MEHAL

This is a farm for the collection of a tax of Rupee 1, Rupee 1-4, or Rupee 1-8 according to contents, on boats and rafts morred in the Udaypoor subdivision. The tax is an unfair imposition on presons who come into the State for trading purposes. The receipts fell off by rupees 227.

CAZAII MEHAL.

This represents the amount paid by a Cazi of Agartala, who holds the exclusive right of attesting, in person or through his assistants, documents executed in connection with Mahomedan marriages in the State. The fees realized correspond to those of the registrars of Mahomedan marriages in Bengal, and are legitimate.

MARKETS

The revenue is derived from rents charged for setting up stalls or exposing goods for sale in market-places.

Rents are similarly charged by zemindars in British territory. There was a falling off of Rupees 457 in the revenue.

LAW AND JUSTICE FINES

The receipts were Rupees 938 less than those of the previous year. More persons were convicted than in the previous year. The only explanation of the decrease in the revenue appears, therefore, to be that fewer or lighter fines were inflicted. If this be correct, the decrease affords a proof that the Magistrates are using more discretion in passing sentences of fine than formerly, when fines were imposed rather with an eye to increase the revenue than as suitable punishments.

COURT FEES, INCLUDING STAMPS

This head includes the items of court fees and commission fees shown separately in last years return. The revenue for that year was Rupees 8,370. The present return shows a decrease of Rupees 1,691, which is probably due to a falling off in the number of old documents brought to be stamped and registered under the provisions of the registration law. No record of registered documents has been kept.

PROCESS FEES.

There was a decrease of Rupees 165 in the receipts, evidently on account of the smaller number of persons required to appear in criminal cases.

CATTLE POUNDS

There was in this case also a decrease amounting to Rupees 258. Pounds are kept up at every thana.

ABKAREE.

There was slight increase of Rupees 158. Licenses for the manufacture of country spirits and pachwai are granted at the rate of 12 annas per mensem. There are 163 current licenses. At Agartala there is a shop for the sale of foreign wines and spirits. Ganja and opium are no longer produced in the State. A shop for the sale of these drugs is maintained near Agartala, in the Tipperah district. The licenses for the manufacture of country spirits are not always granted with judgement. I found a shop at Koilashar paying a revenue of Rupees 100 per annum, which yields the proprietor Rupees 720 in the same period. The liquor sold is an abominable concoction, into which some leaves of a jungle plant are put to increase its intoxicating power. The principal customers of the shop are Kukis of four villages in the neighbourhood. Thus for the sake of Rupees 100 a year the Administration sanctions the maintenance of a shop which costs four Kuki villages nearly Rupees 720, and supplies them with a liquor which may not unfitly be called poison. I recommended the withdrawal of the license, but the shop still exists.

NAZAR OR TRIBUTE

The receipts under this head include fees paid by the recipients of titles and leases, which are voluntary, and a mass of petty fees for using palkis at weddings, digging tanks, building pucca houses, and so forth, which must be vexatious to the people. The receipts fell off by Rupees 109.

ADDA MEHAL.

This is a farm for the collection of a chowkidari tax of 12 annas on each house in the villages of the plains. The tax is levied unfairly, inasmuch as no chowkidars are maintained. The collections increased by Rupees 1,400, being Rupees 3,538 against Rupees 2,138 in the previous year. The increase is due to greater energy in collecting.

GRASS MEHAL.

This is a farm of the rental charged for the land on which thatching grass is accumulated previous to exportation. Like the tax on boats and rafts moored, it seems to me to be an unfair charge on persons who benefit

the State by their visits for the purpose of buying or selling commodities and exporting forest produce.

MUNICIPALITY.

This amount represents the collections of the municipal tax of Agartala. There has been no change in the rates for the last two years. The increase of Rupees 117 over the receipts of 1876-77 shows that the collecting establishment has been more energetic.

MISCELLANEOUS.

This head includes some of the sources of revenue shown separately in last years statement, namely, the taxes on spinning-wheels, the export of saffron and fishing. The revenue on account of these taxes must have been insignificant. Besides these taxes, receipts from jail manufactures, from sales of some tracts of thatching grass and bamboos in the Koilashar subdivision, and other minor sources of revenue, help to make up the amount shown under this head. One item consists of fees paid for summary orders issued by the civil courts for the realization of debts of not more than Rupees 2. The debtors are bound to pay at once, but can subsequently contest the claims. These proceedings are not treated as civil suits.

35. The estates in British territory have been under the management of Mr. Larminie since July 1877. The collections made during the cold weather months were large, but still considerably below the current demand. A small balance only was available for expenditure in Agartala, after the payment of the Government revenue, some debts, some fixed charges, and the expense of management. The relations between the Maharaja and his ryots in Pergunnah Khandal, the most important portion of the estates, have not materially improved.

The Maharaja has for some time been making laudable efforts to effect a fresh settlement of rents, and for several months some of his best officers were engaged in endeavouring to induce the ryots to come to terms. The success hitherto obtained is far from promising. I fear that the breach of cordiality between the zemindar and the ryots is too wide and of too long a standing to be throughly repaired by the action of the zemindar, unless he made concessions, which cannot be reasonably expected of him. I am inclined to think that nothing short of a settlement by Government officials will obtain the acquiescence of the ryots and enable the Maharaja to realize the rental to which he is fairly entitled. I cannot, however, do more than broach the question in this report. Properly managed, the estates might yield a net income of between three and four lakhs easily. The principal cause of the present difficulties is the absence of records showing the extent and assessment of the holdings. The neglect to keep records is attributable to the incompetence and dishonesty of the zemindari officers and the former system of selling farms of portions of the estates, under which the farmers attached no value to complete records.

36. With regard to the expenditure of the Administration, I have already made some remarks. The Maharaja lately directed two of his officers to prepare a budget for the present year. I recommended that heavy reductions should be made in some branches of expenditure, and these reductions were much desired by those of his officers who really have the Maharajas interests at heart. But the Maharaja could not be induced to consent to them, owing to the influence of favourites, and practically nothing has been done, although some estimates of revenue and expenditure have been drawn up. I fear that it is quite useless to press the Maharaja to adopt the budget system, in asmuch as he is not likely to contorl his expenditure according to the allotments of a budget, so long as he is surrounded by the persons to whose demands he is at present so willing to accede. A very claborate budget might be prepared, but it would be a sham, which would ultimately bring the budget system into ridicule.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

37. It affords me pleasure to add my testimony to that of my predecessor to the fairly satisfactory manner in which the Judicial officers of the State discharge their duties. In the subdivisions the subdivisional officers

try both civil and criminal cases. At Agartala there are the following Courts :—

The Joint Magistrates Court ; the Civil Court ; the Hill Court, for the trial of cases in which hill people are concerned ; the Appellate (Civil and Criminal) and Sessions Court, and the supreme Appeal Court, presided over by the Maharaja, who is assisted by Thakur Mukanda Ram Rai, generally known as Raja Baboo. The work done by the different courts and the investigating officers of the police is shown in the following statements annexed to this report.

38. (1.) *Statement of cases investigated by the police.*—The number of cases reported was 147. Of these 90 were investigated successfully and 46 unsuccessfully, and 11 remained under investigation at the end of the year. The results of trials were not satisfactory, the number of acquittals being 75, against 43 convictions. Cases of mischief and adultery, which are not congnizable under our law, were investigated. There are 17 thanas in the State. The large ones are in charge of darogahs receiving Rupees 20 a month, and the small ones of jemadars receiving Rupees 10.

(2.) *Statement of criminal cases.*—Classified according to the principles adopted in Bengal, the statement shows that there were 31 cases of serious offences and 227 of minor offences against property, and 19 cases of serious offences and 226 of minor offences against the person. There were also 110 miscellaneous case. The statement cannot be compared, as regards the classes of offences, with that given in the last report, as the latter was drawn up by the State officials on principles with which I am not acquainted. The totals of the two returns show and increase of 53 cases in the present return, but a decrease of 203 in the number of persons brought to trial. The increase in the cases which occurred within the year was only 27. It occurred entirely in the Court of the Joint Magistrate of Agartala, and is not large enough to call for explanation. There was no abnormal cause for litigation. As regards the reduction in the number of persons brought to tiral, it is mainly due to a large reduction in the number of such persons in the Udaypur subdivision. The subdivisional officer was changed during the year, and, as the number of cases has not fallen, it appears that the new Deputy magistrate is more cautious in issuing processes than his predecessor. Of the 613 cases shown in the statement, 221 were rejected, dismissed, or compromised, without trial. The rejections of complaints were not numerous I believe. It would appear, therefore, that parties very frequently settle their disputes out of court. The trials were 338 in number; 416 persons were convicted and 479 acquitted— a result which cannot be deemed satisfactory, but is a great imporvement on the previous years work. It will be seen from the details of the statement that there were few heinous offences. Disputes regarding forest produce are much less frequent than formerly. The majority of cases consisted of charges of hurt, assault, mischief, and petty thefts. The only cases calling for special mention were the following, which occurred in the Udaypur subdivision :—

(a) Dacoity accompanied with murder committed by hillmen on some residents of Noakholly who were proceeding through the hills on the north bank of the Fenny to Ramghur, in the Hill Tracts. One man was killed and a few rupees were stolen. The offenders appear to have been driven to the crime by distress. Twenty-six men were arrested, but the case could only be proved against three, who were sentenced to several years imprisonment.

(b) Voluntarily causing grievous hurt with fire-arms loaded with shots, committed by the servants of the farmer of the plain lands bordering on pergunnah Khandal, on ryots who were removing paddy which had been informally distrained by the farmer. The case was transferred to the district of Noakholly for trial. The accused were lately convicted and sentenced to transportation and imprisonment by the Sessions Judge.

(c) Murder committed in consequence of a dispute regarding land. The two men arrested were sentenced to imprisonment for life.

(3) *Statement of appeals in criminal cases*—Altogether 47 persons appealed. The appeals of 13 were

rejected, the sentences of 20 were confirmed, and of eight modified ; further enquiry was ordered in five appeals, and one appeal was pending at the end of the year. In no case was a sentence reversed. I am inclined to think that the results of appeals show, not that the Magistrates are almost infallible, but that the Appellate Court is unreasonably disposed not to interfere with the sentences of the lower courts. The very small number of appeals from Udaypur and Koilashar is due to the distance of these places from Agartala, and the difficulty of engaging agents to conduct the appeals.

(4) *Statement of cases in which British subjects were concerned.*—The total number of cases was 137. In 116 cases 188 British subjects were defendants ; 74 were convicted and 91 acquitted. There was no case calling for remark.

(5) *Statement of cases in which warrants vere issued by the Political Agent.*—There were eight cases, against seven in the previous year. Warrants were issued for the arrest of 32 persons, eight of whom were arrested and made over to the Maharaja. The total number of persons under trial was 18 ; nine were convicted, one was acquitted, and eight remained under trial at the end of the year. In the less serious cases the offenders frequently surrendered themselves at the Hill Tipperah Court.

(6) *Statement of cases in which certificates were issued by the Political Agent under Section 9 of Act XI of 1872 for trial in British territory.*—The cases which occurred during the year were only seven in number. In the previous year there were also seven. Considering the immense length of the borders, the number of cases that annually occur in which the Political Agent is requested to issue warrants for the arrest and delivery of offenders to the Hill Tipeerah Courts, or issues a certificate for trial in British territory, is very small. The results of trials of the cases certified show that the charges are generally well-founded. Of 32 persons brought to trial 24 were convicted, and only three were acquitted or discharged, the remainder being still under trial at the end of the year. The most important cases was that which occurred between the farmer and ryots of lands adjoining pergunnah Khandal, and has been already briefly described.

(7) *Statement of civil suits (original).*—The number of suits for disposal was 293, of which 35 were rejected or dismissed on default or exparte, 29 were withdrawn or compromised, 116 were decreed on confession or exparte, and 70 were contested with results in favour of the plaintiffs in 53 and of the defendants in 17 suits. There were 43 suits pending at the end of the year. The number of contested suits, as will be seen, was very small. The subdivisional officers are empowered to try suits of a value not exceeding Rupees 1,000. Suits of a higher value must be instituted in Agartala. The value of suits is generally small. The total value of all suits instituted during the year was only Rupees 27,723. There were only nine suits of a value exceeding Rupees 500, the rest being for smaller sums. The suits may be thus classified :—170 for the recovery of money on written or verbal contracts, 22 for goods sold, 2 for damages, 15 for rent, 16 for the pessession of land or buildings, and 14 or other claims. The amount realized in stamps and fees on plaints was Rupees 3,181, showing that a percentage of nearly Rupees 11-8 was charged on the value of suits. The number of suits instituted was 45 less than in the previous year. The decrease occurred in the Udaypur subdivision, where there were only 30 suits, against 102 in the previous year. The subdivisional officer correctly attributes the decrease mainly to the failure of the crops in the hills, which made it almost useless for money-lenders to sue their debtors.

(8) *Statement of appeals in civil suits.*—There were 37 appeals, but only five were decided during the year, as the Appellate Judge was ill for the greater part of the year. A substitute has been recently appointed. Of the five appeals decided, two were rejected ; in one the order of the lower court was confirmed, in another it was reversed, and in a third the suit was sent back for further enquiry. As in criminal cases, and for the same persons, appeals from Udaypur and Koilashar were very few.

(9) *Statement of civil suits in which British subjects were concerned.*—There were altogether 47 suits, in 30 of which the plaintiffs, in 12 the defendants, and in five both parties, were British subjects. There would

probably be more suits against British subjects if they had not such facilites of leaving the State, and if the decrees of the Maharajas civil courts could be enforced in British territory. Absconding debtors may, however, be sued in British territory under the Civil Procedure Code, if the creditors choose to follow them. I have heard complaints from the farmer of the plain lands adjoining Pergunnah Khandal that he can realized nothing on decrees for rent obtained in this State against ryots who cultivate lands under him but reside in British territory. This is undoubtedly a grievance, but I do not think that the courts of the State have as yet attained to such a degree of efficiency as to justify a recommendation that execution of their decrees may be allowed in British territory. Possibly suits for rent due in this State may be instituted, simply as for money due, against a ryot who resides in British territory.

EDUCATION.

39. Many new schools have been opened during the year, particularly in Pergunnah Bisalghar, and there has been a real advance in the matter of primary education. The statement annexed to the report shows the number of schools in existence at the close of the year to be 18, against 6 at the close of the previous year. The school at Udaypur and the Persian Maktab and Sanskrit Tole at Agartala are really old institutions revised during the year. I inspected almost all the schoolss, and was dissatisfied with the condition of only one school, but that the most important, namely, the Anglo-Vernacular School at Agartala. I regret to say that the school is not properly looked after, and therefore fails to fulfil efficiently its functions as the principal school of the State. The masters are frequently changed, and the influential residents of Agartala, both private and official, take no interest in the school. For some years past the Political Agents alone have generally visited the school. The school at Koilashar is a very useful and well-managed institution. As regards the other schools, I observed that the pupils and teachers took interest in their work. More supervision from head-quarters is, however, necessary, and the teachers should be paid with greater punctuality. The educational officers have shown much zeal for female education in the past year, and three new girls schools have been started. The Manipuris have no objection to send their daughters to these schools, and the numbers in attendance are large. I trust that the wish for female education which they are manifesting will outlast the novelty of the schools. The total of pupils in all the schools is stated to be 430, of whom 53 are girls. The number in the previous year was only 186. Having regard to the present circumstances of the people, to the paucity of large and compact villages, to the fact which I have explained, that education cannot be introduced among the hill people, and to the high rates of stipend which must be paid to the teachers of the existing schools, I think that the present number of schools is a very fair provision for the education of the people. But it is essential that the schools should receive more care and encouragement than they have hitherto received from the superior officers of the Admininstration and other persons of influeace. It will be observed from the return that the Manipuri pupils, boys and girls, are more numerous than those of the other races, and that the Mussulmans also form a large number. The sons of Thakurs make a bad show. This is much to be regretted, as it is of the utmost importance to qualify the young Thakurs for the highest offices of the State. Owing to the unsatisfactory state of the Agartala Anglo-Vernacular School, I suggested to the Maharaja that he should send some Thakurs sons, at his own expense, to a better school in British territory. He has accordingly sent three boys to an entrance school at Comilla. I anticipate much benefit from this measure if it be adhered to.

40. The education of the Jubraj and his two brothers has terminated. They have attained manhood, and have separate establishments within the Rajbari. The two sons of the Maharaja by his first wife, popularly known as the Bara Ishwari, are still being educated by a private tutor. I have intimated to the Government the recent appointment of the elder, named Shamarendra Chandra Deb, to be Bara Thakur of the State. He is nearly fifteen years of age, and appears to be very intelligent and eager to acquire knowledge. The Maharaja is desirous of giving him an excellent education, but is reluctant to send him away from home to one of the colleges of Bengal.

I regret to say that the Jubraj is still a stranger to the world outside Hill Tipperah. Both objections on the part of the Maharaja and want of funds have prevented his travelling out of the State during the last two or three years.

FRONTIER MATTERS AND MILITARY FORCE.

41. The orders of the Government of India regarding the military posts which the Maharaja is to maintain on his north-eastern frontier were received during the year. As they now stand, after amendment in some particulars, they require that a force of 105 men, with a reserve of 30 men, shall be maintained to garrison stockades at Pherna Dharmanagar, Chirakuti near Koilashar, and Kamalpur. At least 70 men must be Goorkhas. Detachments were kept, as directed, at the three places just named during the last cold season, and smaller bodies will remain there during the rainy season, when raids are not likely to happen. An old stockade exists at Chirakuti ; one has been built at Kamalpur, and that for the defence of Pherua Dharmanagar will be completed during the next cold season. Great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining Goorkah recruits to complete the number required for the force. An officer was sent to recruit during the year, but he only succeeded in enlisting half a dozen men. Another attempt will be made after the rains, but I am doubtful of its success ; the fact being that the Maharajas service has no attractions for able-bodied Goorkhas, who can generally obtain employment elsewhere. The pay is small, and is very irregularly distributed. The men already in the Maharajas force are thoroughly discontented, and would leave in a body if they were not tied down by their families. The condition of the Maharajas troopps has been unfavorably described by every Political Agent, and I am sorry to say that no improvement has taken place during the past year, notwithstanding incessant advice and remonstrances on my part. The Maharaja has spent a good deal in pruchasing 175 muskets and 25 Sniders, ammunition, and clothing, but the majority of the men are as ineffective as ever, and irregularity in paying them continues. The officials take no interest in the force, and most of the military officers are quite ignorant of their duties, and generally engaged in furthering their own interests by intrigues or private occupations. Reliance on these persons is hopeless. To make the force really effective it is, I think, essential that it should be placed under the direct contorl of a Government officer, and that a branch of the revenue should be specially allotted for its expenses. The number of men now retained is much too large. The Maharaja could effect a considerable saving by reducing the number from 297, as shown in the military return, to 200 men. The latter number will be ample for all military purposes if the men are efficient. With this smaller force there should be no difficulty in paying the men regularly.

42. The frontier has been quiet during the year. From enquiries which I made at Koilashar, I am satisfied that no communication is kept up between the Kukis of this State and the Lushais. The former are, on the contrary, in such constant terror of being visited by Lushai raiders that they maintain a cordon of watchmen from the Jampai range to Koilashar, and hide their valuables in the jungle during the cold season. Some Bengali traders of Koilashar occasionally go to Lushai Haut and Bepari Bazar, but always through Cachar.

MISCELLANEOUS

43. With regard to the subject of domestic slavery, I am glad to report that since the close of the year the Maharaja has issued a proclamation forbidding the sale, purchase, receiving in pledge, or forcible detention as a slave, of any human being, under penalties to be awarded by the criminal courts, but authorizing the making of contracts of service for a period not exceeding three years. The proclamation, I think, deals effectively with the custom of domestic slavery. The persons who are actually slaves have the option of leaving or staying with their masters, and future dealings in slaves are stopped, while the power to make contracts of service in some compensation to the class which has hitherto been accustomed to rely on the labor of slaves, and also an advantage to persons who may be willing to promise their service for a certain term for the sake of an immediate gain. The Maharajas action in this matter is deserving of praise.

44. The people continue to derive much benefit from the dispensaries at Agartala, Koilashar, and Sonamura. The institutions might, however, be considerably improved without extra expense by more attention on the part of the State Surgeon than they now receive. The accommodation for in-door patients at Agartala is not as good as it might easily be made. The usual return of patients has been submitted.

45. The Agartala jail has been rather overcrowded during the year. The daily average number of prisoners was 46.9. The place is healthy and the prisoners are well-treated. The latter are employed in making baskets and out-door work in the roads. The labor exacted from them is not, however, quite heavy and regular enough. At Koilashar there is a neat lock-up, and at Sonamura one is being built.

46. The Municipality at Agartala continues to exist, but only in name. In last years report I remarked on its unsuitableness to Agartala. Further experience has confirmed the opinion I then expressed. The Municipality has never done more than maintain a few chowkidars, its income being sufficient for this purpose only. Moreover, as the officials are exempted from assessment and they form a large portion of the community, the municipal tax can searcely be considered fair to those who are called upon to pay it. Some roads were repaired in past year, but at the cost of the general revenue. I have not received an account of the expenditure.

47. A road to connect Agartala with the Comilla and Brahmanbaria road near Kasbah, in the district of Tipperah, is much needed. The Maharaja is willing to complete the portion which would fall within his State. I am informed that the Road Cess Committee of Tipperah has also decided on making the remaining portion, but that the estimates are still awaiting sanction. Much delay has occurred in commencing the work, and it is to be hoped that it will be taken in hand during the cold season. Within the state roads are much wanted in the plains. The only road work done during the year was the completion of the road between new and old Agartala. A road from Sonamura to Udaypur along the bank of the Goomtee would open up a vast extent of plain country, but at present the expenditure cannot be incurred.

48. In conclusion, I beg to express my satisfaction with the manner in which my clerk, Baboo Hara Charan Nandi, discharges his duties. He has been attached to the Agency since its creation, and is thoroughly acquainted with his work and deserving of confidence.

APPENDICES.

A

Statement showing the amount of revenue derived from land and other sources for the year 1875-76.

Serial number	Sources of revenue	Amount Income for 1874-75	Annual income for 1875-76	AS COMPARED WITH 1874-76 Increase.	AS COMPARED WITH 1874-76 Decrease.	REMARKS
		Rs. A. P. K.	Rs. A. P. K.	Rs. A. P. K.	Rs. A. P. K.	
1	Land revenue from lands in the plains.*	38,789 0 11 0	34,931 7 6 6	....	3,257 9 4 14	* *i.e.* the tract of country within Hill Tipperah at the foot of the hills and bordering on British territory. The amount shown is of course independant of what is realized from the Rajah's estate in British territory.
2	Family tax in the hills	24,217 0 0 0	24,424 14 0 0	207 14 0 0	...	
3	Forest produce (tax on).	28,395 12 0 0	33,628 15 8 10	5,228 3 8 10	....	
4	Ferry ghat (10 unnas	12,000 0 0 0	9,466 7 0 0	....	2,533 9 0 0	
5	Cotton and til	47,180 14 0 0	47,149 0 0 0	....	31 14 0 0	
6	Royalty on elephants caught	24,000 0 0 0	37,451 11 0 0	13,451 11 0 0	....	
7	Tota, or parrot mehal	23 6 0 0	23 6 0 0	....	....	
8	Gurjon, or wood-oil mehal.	30 13 0 0	34 0 0 0	3 3 0 0	....	
9	Buffalo mehal	122 3 0 0	1,373 15 6 0	1,251 12 6 0	....	
10	Khutgari (tax on the mooring of boats and rafts) mehal.	192 5 0 0	1,569 5 9 0	1,377 0 9 0	....	
11	Sharshu (mustard seed) mehal.	64 13 0 0	61 13 0 0	....	....	
12	Chonashikar mehal	67 0 0 0	67 0 0 0	....	....	Explained in the report. The cake used here does not apparently contain lime or root (chuna-shikur), but cousists of clay morely.
13	Charki (spiuning wheel) mehal.	27 10 0 0	24 0 0 0	....	3 10 0 0	
14	Kazi mehal	125 0 0 0	125 0 0 0	....	....	The tax kazis have to pay for being enabled to perform marriages among the Mussulmans.
15	Market &c.	1,646 7 3 0	834 3 6 0	....	212 3 9 9	
16	Law and Justice, fines, &c.	2,644 4 0 0	3,956 13 1 10	1,912 9 1 10	....	
17.	Court fee	2,393 10 0 0	4,243 7 9 0	1,849 13 9 0	....	
18	Process fee, &c.	358 4 0 0	896 5 6 0	538 1 6 0	....	† This amount was accidentally omitted last year.
19	Commission fee	1,106 2 0 0	2,925 9 6 0	1,819 7 6 0	....	
20	Cattle pounds	1,641 0 9 0	1,045 9 6 0	4 8 9 0	....	‡ Ditto ditto
21	Abkari	970 8 0 0	1,366 13 1 0	396 5 1 0	....	
22	Nuzzur or tribute	2,736 0 0 0	3,941 15 6 0	1,205 15 6 0	....	
23	Adda mehal	+3,113 13 0 0	3,247 9 0 0	133 12 0 0	....	
24	Municipality	852 0 0 0	616 8 0 0	....	235 8 0 0	
	Newly created Mehals.					Explained in the report.
25	Grass mehal	....	50 0 0 0	50 0 0 0	....	Ditto ditto.
26	Bilati haldi mehal	....	5 0 0 0	5 0 0 0	....	Ditto ditto
27	Jalkar mehal	....	12 0 0 0	12 0 0 0	....	
	Total	$1,90,897 13 11 0	2,13,470 13 11 6	29,447 6 2 0	6,874 6 1 14	$ The amount shown last year was 1.86,932 0 11
				Total increase	21573 0 0 0	The omissions above noted 3,113 13 0 and 852 0 0
						Give 1,00,897 13 11

B

Statement showing the number of boys on the rolls in the schools in Hill Tipperah for 1875-76

NAME OF SCHOOL	Total number of boys on the roll.	Number of Thakurs sons.	Tipperahs.	Munipuris.	Assamese.	Bengali (Hindus).	Mussulman.	Deshwali.	Others.	Daily average number of boys present.
Agurtollah										
1 Bengali and English school	76	14	13	14	...	19	3	13	...	43.24
2 Bengali school	28	16	8	1	...	2	...	1	...	....
Kailashur										
1 Bengali and English school	57	...	...	13	1	39	4	...	...	48
Udaypore										
1 Bengali pathsala	12	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	...
Total	173	30	21	28	1	60	19	14	...	...

C

Tabular statement showing the number of rank on the roster of each "Baraduri," with the number belonging to each race.

	RANK									RACE							
BARADURI	Major.	Lieutenant-Colonel.	Captain.	Kumedan.	Subadars.	Jemadars.	Havildars.	Amaldars.	Buglers.	Sepoys.	Bengalis.	Mahomedans.	Goorkhas.	Assamese.	Deswalis, or upcountry men.	Tipperahs or Munipuris.	Total.
First	1	....	....	....	....	2	....	....	....	8	....	....	....	....	11	....	11
Second	....	1	....	.....	2	5	7	9	2	148	9	26	66	10	53	10	174
Third	.....	.....	1	....	....	....	1	1	....	25	1	15	....	....	12	....	28
Fourth	....	....	....	1	....	1	2	2	1	26	10	19	....	....	4	....	33
Fifth	....	....	....	....	1	1	2	1	....	26	1	28	....	....	....	2	31
Sixth	....	....	....	....	1	....	1	1	....	10	1	3	....	....	....	9	13
Total	1	1	1	1	4	9	13	14	3	243	22	91	66	10	80	21	290

D

Statement showing the strength of the civil police, with the names of thanas and outposts occupied by them.—(1875-76)

Names of Police Stations	Number of darogahs.	Number of naib darogahs.	Number of luzaris.	Number of mohurirs.	Number of jomadars	Number of duffadars	Number of burkundazes or kutwals.	Total.
THANAS.								
1. Kutwali (Agurtollah)	1	.....	.....	.....	1	2	10	14
2. Bisalgarh	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	4	6
3. Risiya Mukh	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	5
4. Sabrang Magrum	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	8	10
5. Radhanagar	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	7	9
6. Amalighata	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	8	10
7. Puran Rajbari	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	9	10
8. Sabar Mura	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	10	12
Outtosts.								
1. Madhabnagar	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	12	13
2. Srinagar	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	8	9
3. Kataliya	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	8	9
4. Buliniya	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	8	9
5. Mohesh Pushkarini	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	20	23
6. Baksnagar	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	7	9
7. Pagahni Nadirpur	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	6	7
8. Indranagar	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	4
9. Abhaynagar	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	4
10. Jairpur	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	4
11. Howrarpur	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	4
12. Mantala	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	4
13. Nachini Mura	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	4
14. Muchitala	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	7
15. Kenaniya	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	7
Total	6	1	1	8	9	4	163	192

General statement of criminal cases (original) for the year 1875-76.

DESCRIPTION OF CRIME.	Number for cases pending at commencement of the year	Number of cases instituted during the year.	Total for disposal.	Cases in which punishment was inflicted.	Cases in which defendants were acquitted.	Cases in which defendants were discharged.	Dismissed.	Compromised	Otherwise disposed of.	Total disposed of.	Pending at close of the year.	Remarks
Dewan												This return does not show the number of persons implicated. Next year information on this point will be supplied. Cases in which some of the defendants were punished and others acquitted have been entered as "punished"
1. Serious offences against person	1	2	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	
2. Ditto ditto ditto property	...	2	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	
3. Petty ditto ditto person	...	4	4	1	...	...	3	...	...	4	...	
4. Ditto ditto ditto property	...	6	6	2	...	1	...	...	2	5	1	
5. Miscellanous	1	4	5	2	...	...	3	...	...	5	...	
Total	2	18	20	8	1	1	6	...	2	18	2	
Nazir Saheb.												
1. Serious offences against person	2	22	24	6	11	...	2	1	4	24	...	
2. Ditto ditto ditto property	1	49	59	10	26	...	9	1	1	47	3	
3. Petty ditto ditto person	4	131	135	44	29	...	48	9	3	133	2	
4. Ditto ditto ditto prpoerty	2	43	45	19	22	...	9	3	1	45	...	
5. Miscellenous	2	22	24	6	...	...	11	...	7	24	...	
Total	11	267	278	76	88	...	79	11	18	273	5	
Parbati Charan Thakoor Saheb.												
1. Serious offences against person	2	3	5	1	2	...	1	...	1	5	...	
2. Ditto ditto ditto property	...	3	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	3	...	
3. Petty ditto ditto person	...	6	6	2	1	...	3	...	...	6	...	
4. Ditto ditto ditto property	...	4	4	...	3	...	1	...	...	4	...	
5. Miscellaneous	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	
Total	3	16	19	5	8	...	5	...	1	19	...	
Makanda Ram Rai.												
1. Serious offences against person	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
2. Ditto ditto ditto property	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
3. Petty ditto ditto person	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
4. Ditto ditto ditto property	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
5. Miscellaneous	...	2	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	
Total	...	2	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	
Kailashur Sub-division												
1. Serious offences against person	3	7	10	4	3	1	...	...	...	8	2	
2. Ditto ditto ditto property	3	3	6	2	1	1	2	...	...	6	...	
3. Petty ditto ditto person	...	29	29	14	5	2	6	2	...	29	...	
4. Ditto ditto ditto property	1	18	19	6	7	2	2	...	1	18	1	
5. Miscellaneous	2	22	24	20	2	...	1	...	...	23	1	
Total	9	76	88	46	18	6	11	2	1	84	4	
Udaypore Sub-division.												
1. Serious offences against person	...	2	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	
2. Ditto ditto ditto property	...	49	49	9	6	3	8	7	9	36	13	
3. Petty ditto ditto person	...	59	59	14	4	1	24	...	4	55	4	
4. Ditto ditto ditto property	...	45	45	6	8	2	16	16	...	45	...	
5. Miscellaneous	...	30	30	17	5	...	6	1	...	30	...	
Total	...	185	185	46	23	6	55	24	14	168	17	
Grand Total	25	567	592	181	138	13	157	40	34	563	29	

F.

Statement showing the result of appeals in regard to criminal cases for the year 1875-76.

Name of Court against the order of which the appeal is preferred.	Suits remaining from last year	Instituted during the year	Total for disposal	Judgment of lower courts confirmed	Reversed	Rejected	Modified	Total disposed of	Pending at close of year
Dewan's court	.....	2	2	.....	.....	.....	1	1	1
Nazir Saheb's court	6	19	25	5	12	1	6	24	1
Parbati Charan Thakoor's court	.....	5	5	1	3	.....	.....	4	1
Deputy Superintendent's court at Kailashur	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Deputy Magistrate's court at Udaypore	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total ...	6	26	32	6	15	1	7	29	3

G.

Statement of criminal cases in which British subjects were concerned during the year 1875-76.

OFFENCE	Number of cases in which British subjects were plaintiffs.	Number of cases in which British subjects were defendants.	Number of cases in which British subjects were and defendants
1. Murder	....	1	....
2. Greivous hurt	....	1	....
3. Hurt	....	3	1
4. Kidnapping	....	5	1
5. Wrongful confinement	1	....	2
6. Causing abortion	....	1	....
7. Adultery	1	....	....
8. Using criminal force	1	3	4
9. Assault	6	5	6
10. Contempt of court	1	....	....
11. Giving false evidence	....	1	....
12. Decoity, arson	....	3	....
13. Theft	4	23	16
14. Cheating	....	1	....
15. Criminal trespass	....	3	1
16. Extortion	4	....	....
17. Breach of trust	....	2	2
18. Mischief	2	4	1
19. Wrongful retention of gunpowder	....	1	....
20. Attempt to give bribe	....	....	1
21. Obstruction to way	....	1	....
22. Allowing priseners to escape from lawful custody	....	1	....
23. Escaping from bajut	....	3	....
24. Offence affecting marriage	1	....	....
Total	21	62	35

Statement of cases in which warrants were issued for the arrest of the accused under section 11, *Act XI of* 1872, *during the year* 1875-76.

Number of cases	NAME OF OFFENCE	Total number of accused persons for whose arrest warrants were issued	Total number of accused persons brought before the Hill Tipperah courts	Total Number convicted	Total number acquitted or discharged	Total number brought before the court and pending trial at the close of the year	Total number of persons not brought before the court and warrant returned un-executed.
1	Criminal breach of trust ...	1	1	1	...	...	...
1	Dacoity, arson, &c. ...	44	14	8	1	5	30
2	Kidnapping ...	2	...	...	...	...	2
1	Theft of buffaloe ...	1	1	...	1	...	...
9	Ditto forest produce ...	52	32	14	...	18	20
14	Total ...	100	48	23	2	23	52

J

Statement of civil suits (original) for the year 1875-76.

Name of Court	Pending at commencement of year	Instituted during the year	Total for disposal	Rejected or dismissed for default	Withdrawn with leave or compromise	Decreed on confession or *ex-parte*.	Judgment for plaintiff in whole or part.	Judgment for defendant	Total for disposal	Pending at close of year.
Agartollah										
1. Ananda Kishore Thakoor's court ...	30	100	139	22	20	39	26	20	127	12
2. Parbati Charan Thakoor's court ...	6	34	40	11	3	11	8	2	35	5
3. Rajah Mukanda Ram's court ...	2	9	11	2	3	3	1	...	9	2
Total ...	38	152	190	35	26	53	35	22	171	19
Kailashur Sub-division										
4. Deputy Superintendent's court ...	10	79	89	30	5	19	12	5	71	18
Udaypore Sub-division.										
5. Deputy Magistrate's court.	...	102	102	35	8	16	8	11	78	24
Grand Total ...	48	333	381	100	39	88	55	38	320	61

K

Statement showing the unmber of civil suits in which British subjects were concerned during the year 1875-76

NAME OF COURT.	Total number of cases in which British subjects were concerned	Number of cases in which british subjects were plaintins	Number of cases in which British subjects were defendants	Number of cases in which British subjects were concerned both as plaintiffs and defendants
Agartollah.				
1. Dewan's court	...	...	...	...
2. Ananda Kishor Thakoor's courts	6	6	...	...
3. Parbati Charan Thakoor's courts	2	2	...	...
4. Mukanda Ram Rai's courts	2	2	...	...
5. Deputy Superintendent's courts Kailashur	27	26	1	...
6. Deputy Magistrate's courts, Uday pore	57	21	9	27
Total	91	57	10	27

L

Statement showing the result of appeals is civil for the year 1875-76

NAME OF COURT AGAINST WHOSE ORDER THE APPEAL IS PREFERRED	Pending at commencement of the year	Instituted during the year	Total for disposal	Order of the lower court confirmed	Reversed	Rejected	Remanded	Modified	Total disposed of	Pending at close of year
Agurtollah										
1. Ananda Kishore Thakoor's Court	16	13	29	19	6	1	1	1	28	1
2. Parbati Charan Thakoor's Court	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kailashur										
Deputy Superintendent's Court	4	4	8	3	2	...	1	2	8	...
Udaypore										
Deputy Mugistrate's Court	...	2	2	1	1	...	...	...	2	...
Total	20	19	39	23	9	1	2	3	38	1

M

Tabular statement of the population of the plains for the year 1875-76

Caste	Number of houses	Total number of persons	Number of men	Number of women	Number of boys	Number of girls
Agurtollah						
1. Hindus	704	3,540	1,735	971	467	367
2. Mussulimans	1,707	9,518	2,770	3,147	2,031	1,570
3. Tipperahs	261	1,581	504	534	291	252
4. Munipuris	831	4,509	1,253	1,348	994	914
5. Christians	10	81	27	34	13	7
6. Assamese and Goorkhas	41	159	63	46	30	20
Total	3,494	19,388	6,352	6,080	3,826	3,130
Kailashur						
1. Hindus	329	1,815	600	617	353	245
2. Mussulmans	405	2,169	621	684	499	365
3. Munipuris	295	1,710	452	499	413	346
Total	1,629	5,694	1,673	1,800	1,265	956
Udaypore						
1. Hindus	194	901	323	305	163	110
2. Musulmans	1,391	6,925	2,051	2,194	1,502	1,178
3. Tipperahs	43	205	67	66	46	26
4. Munipuris	188	1,007	283	278	249	197
Total	1,816	9,038	2,724	2,843	1,960	1,511
Grand Total	6,339	34,120	10,749	10,723	7,051	5,597

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Tabular statement of the population of the Hills for the year 1875-76.

Tribe taxed	Number of families exempted from	Number of families families payment of tax.	Total number of persons	Total number of
1. Tipperahs	3,455	692	4,147	22,808
2. Jaimteas	565	75	640	3,520
3. Nowatiahs	504	265	769	4,229
4. Riangs	594	346	940	5,170
5. Hallams	521	117	638	3,509
6. Kukies	51	392	443	2,436
Total	5,690	1,887	7,577	41,672

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Statement showing the inmates treated during the year 1875-76

Name of Dipensary	Sect	Number	Male	Female	Children
Agurtollah	Hindu	1,069	918	111	40
	Mussulman	808	662	97	49
	Tipperah or other classes of hillmen	1,215	1,001	158	86
	Total	3,122	2,581	366	175
	In-door				
	Hindu	5	5	...	...
	Mussulman	6	6	...	...
	Tipperah or other classes of hillmen	1	1	...	...
	Total	12	12	...	...
	Grand Total	3,134	2,593	366	175
Kailashur	Out-door				
	Hindu	265	230	9	26
	Mussulman	180	141	16	23
	Tipperah or other casses of hillmen	59	42	8	9
	Total	504	413	33	58
	In-door				
	Hindu	...	...	...	...
	Mussulman	...	...	...	...
	Total	...	...	...	...
	Grand total	504	413	33	58

Statement showing the number of out-door and in-door patients treated, cured, died, &c., during the year 1875-76

NAME OF DISPENSARY.	Remaining at the close of last year		Number of admissions during the year.	Total number treated.	Number cured.	Number absented or relieved.	Died.	Remaining at the close of year.
AGURTOLLAH	Out-door	17	3,105	3,122	2,516	580	13	13
	In-door	0	12	12	7	1	3	1
	Total	....	3,117	3,134	2,523	581	16	14
KAILASHUR	Out-door Total	5	499	564	430	82	2	10
	In-door	0	499	564	430	62	2	10
	Grand Total	....	3,616	3,638	2,953	613	18	24

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Statement of income and expenditure of the Medical Department of the State of Hill Tipperah for the year ending 31st March 1876.

INCOME

A.– *From the State of Hill Tipperah—*

		Rs.	A.	P.
1.	Salary and allowance of State Surgeon Baboo S. C. Chatterji, B.A., M.B.	1,949	15	0
2.	Dispensary establishment	602	8	0
3.	Medicines, contingencies, dicting of sick, &c.	1,691	13	4
4.	Pay of Native Doctor Azgar Ali and peon	768	0	0
	Total grant from the state	5,012	4	4

B.– *From the Political Agency, a contribution of Rs. 15 per mensem from the month of May 1875–*

	Out of a total of Rs. 165 netually received*	96	0	0
	GRANDTOTAL	4,508	4	0

EXPENDITURE.

		Rs.	A.	P.
1.	Salary of State Surgeon Baboo S. C. Chatterji, B.A., M.N., at Rs. 200 per mensem for 8 months and 21 days.	1,741	15	0
2.	Ditto ditto palki allowance for $6^1/_2$ months	208	0	0
	Dispensary Establishment.			
3.	Native Doctor at Rs. 20 per mensem for $11^1/_2$ months	230	0	0
4.	Compounders at Rs. 15	180	0	0
5.	Other servants	192	8	0
6.	European medicines, instruments, books, &c.	1,117	2	0
7.	Country medicines, contingencies, house repairs dieting, &c.	70	11	0
8.	Pay of Native Doctor Azgur Ali and peon	768	0	0
	Total	4,508	4	0

*Rs. 69 remaining at the end of the year to the credit of the dispensary at the state treasury, the amount being a portion of the contribution made by the Political Agency from May 1875.

T.E.COXHEAD,

OFFICIATING POLITICAL AGENT.